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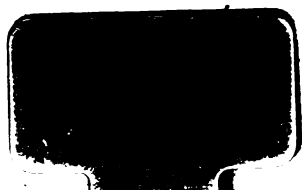
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Sir John Smith, Bart.



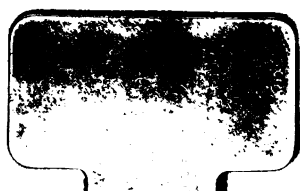
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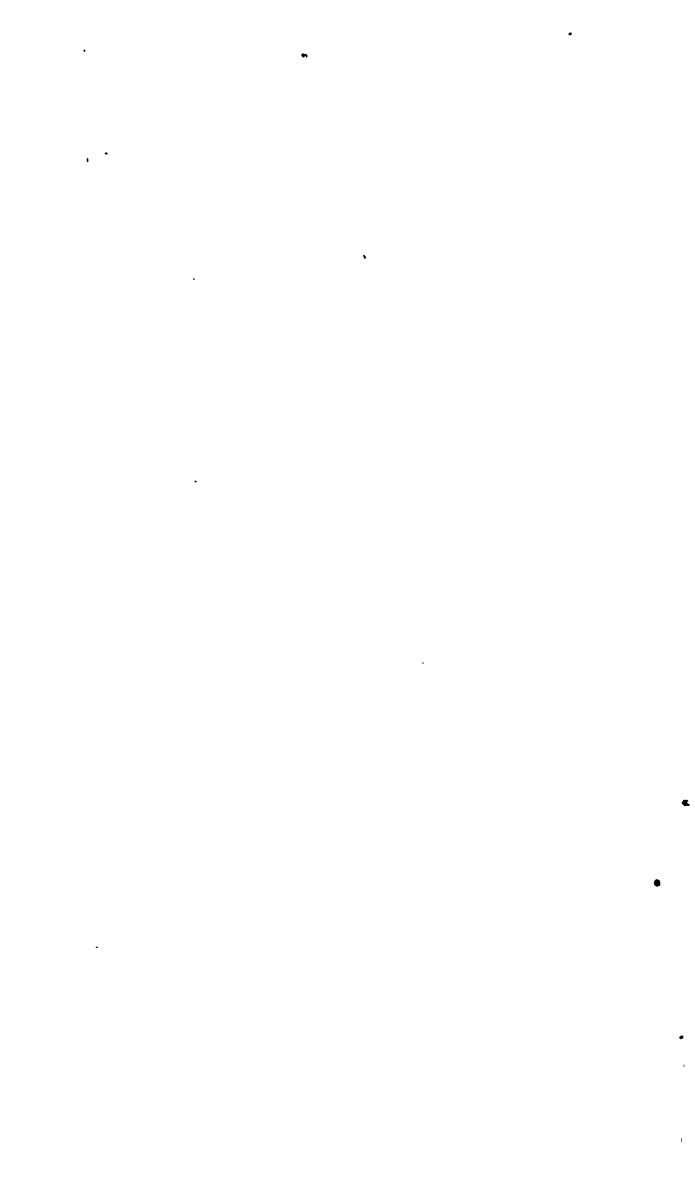


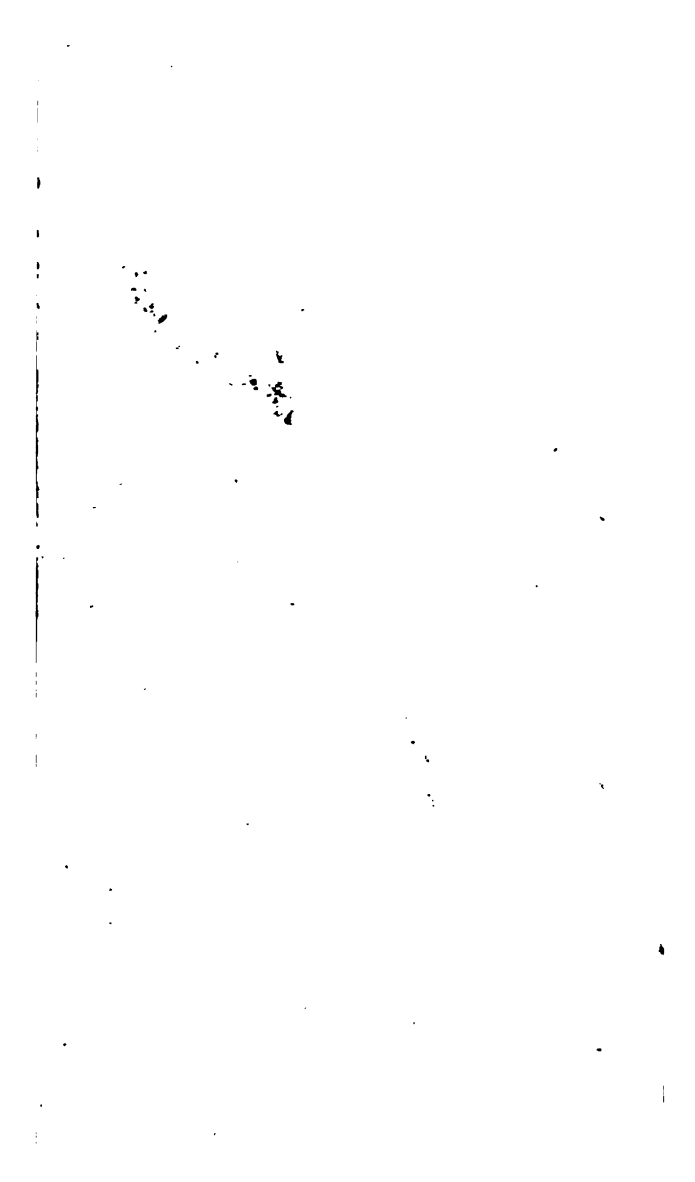
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THE
STRANGER IN ENGLAND;

OR,
Travels in Great Britain.

CONTAINING
REMARKS
ON THE
POLITICS—LAWS—MANNERS—CUSTOMS—AND DIS-
TINGUISHED CHARACTERS OF THAT COUNTRY;
AND CHIEFLY ITS
METROPOLIS:

WITH
CRITICISMS ON THE STAGE.

THE WHOLE INTERSPERSED WITH A VARIETY OF
CHARACTERISTIC ANECDOTES.

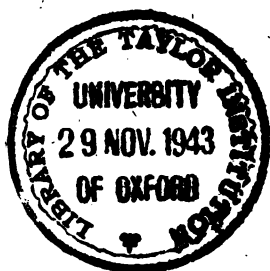
FROM THE GERMAN OF
C. A. G. GOEDE.

IN THREE VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY J. G. BARNARD, SNOW-HILL,
FOR MATHEWS AND LEIGH, 18, STRAND.

1807.



DEDICATION.

TO SIR JOHN CARR.

DEAR SIR,

TO you who have been a *Stranger*, though ever a welcome one, in *foreign* countries, permit me to introduce the *Stranger in England*. As a traveller, a gentle-

man, and a man of letters, he has a strong claim upon your notice ; and I know no person whose qualifications enable him to appreciate more justly the value of such distinguished pretensions.

He has endeavoured to give what appeared to him a faithful sketch of the character and manners of Englishmen ; and if, in any instance, his ignorance of *our* customs, or a prejudice in favour of *his own*, should have led him into error, you will have the candour to excuse the unintentional

mistake of a writer, who, if he have *nothing extenuated*, has certainly not *set down aught in malice*. As one,

“ Qui mores hominum multorum vidit, et urbes,”

you can also form an accurate estimate, as well of the justness of his observations, as of the practicability of his suggested improvements. Having compared the habits and peculiarities of so many different countries, you are the best judge of what is fit either to be adopted or rejected; and, in every point of view, I am

persuaded the *Stranger in England* will be benefitted by being introduced to your acquaintance.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Very sincerely your's,

THE EDITOR.

PREFACE.

THE author of "The Travels in Great Britain" came to this country in the year 1802, just before the momentary peace of Amiens was concluded, and remained here nearly two years; during which period he attentively observed the most prominent features of the English nation, as well political as moral. Upon his return to Germany he communicated his observations to his countrymen in five

volumes ; from which the editor has extracted such parts as he conceived would be most interesting to an Englishman, who wishes to know the opinion of foreigners respecting his nation.

London, 1st May, 1807.

TRAVELS

IN

GREAT BRITAIN, &c.

CHAP. I.

ARRIVAL in England—His first Sensations those of Surprise—Expectations of ordinary Travellers—How disappointed—A cursory View—The Road from Dover to London—Grand Appearance of the Suburbs—The City—Westminster, and the Banks of the Thames—Improvements in the Metropolis—Contrasted Sketches of London and Paris—Their public Illuminations compared; in Origin, Splendour, and National Effect.

THE system of feudality being extinguished, to which all European states are indebted for their organization, the spirit of national independence hourly increases, and threatens to dissolve the ancient republic of European society. . . . It seldom happens that inno-

vations in the government of a country produce prosperity, or that youthful vigour springs up from the ashes of debilitated power; but when such a regeneration does take place, it must be in a state where the Genius of Commerce has erected his standard, and the Goddess of Liberty has fixed her abode.

England is the most striking example of this truth: where upon the abolition of the feudal system, and the secession from the Romish church, the sphere of national action was extended into the regions of liberty; and by noble exertions, new vigour was given to every sinew of the Commonwealth.

Those who are acquainted with the commercial interests of Holland, may certainly, on their arrival in England, find many objects with which they are already familiar; but when they contemplate the vast extent of power, and the accumulation of wealth, resulting

from the Commerce of this Country, their most visionary expectations will be surpassed.

Originality, as well as consistency of character, prevail here, free from restraint; and yet an equality pervades the whole. These qualities, like the strings of an instrument, though different in their tones, yet when skilfully managed, unite in producing perfect harmony.

While the stranger reflects with rapture on the preponderating influence of public spirit, he perceives that the whole body of the state moves as it were spontaneously; that the executive government is invisible; and, on tracing it to its source, he discovers, to his infinite surprise, that its simplicity is not incompatible with its grandeur.

The appropriate emblem of a flourishing state, is a strong, beautiful, and well formed tree, which fancifully waves its luxuriant branches in every

direction. Renovated by the mildness of returning spring, fresh buds appear, new blossoms crowd the boughs, its beauty increases, its strength is invigorated, and it thus continues to bloom and prosper till the period of its natural decline: such is truly the present state of Great Britain.

A stranger, whatever may be his country, will feel this on his arrival in England. If he has lately left a court where the luxuries of the great, mock the humble indigence of the poor, and where the peer oppresses the peasant; how must he be delighted to arrive in a country, where he finds liberty, in its greatest practicable extent, is *literally* UNIVERSAL!

I do not present this picture, however, to travellers whose superficial observations never reach beyond the influence of self; who lounge through every scene in which they have no part to

act, with apathy and indifference; and scarcely bestow the smile of complacency on the general happiness of their race. No; I address myself to those, only, whose feelings lead them to consider these things with the unbiased urbanity of Citizens of the World. It is with me a maxim, that he who can pass his days insensible to the tyranny of military despotism, has no soul to perceive the variation of atmosphere when he breathes the pure invigorating air of British liberty, which sheds its benignant influence over, a happy land.

Still the result from a prospect of a country and its inhabitants, depends as much upon the point of view taken, as upon the individual judgment of the observer. If it is difficult to appreciate the value of a Titian or a Reubens; if it demands skill to estimate with justice the enchanting powers of harmony;

if it requires impartiality to decide between the merits of man and man; how vast is the undertaking, to draw with an unerring, dispassionate, and scientific pencil, the portrait of a great and flourishing people!

The generality of travellers found their expectation respecting the national wealth of this country, upon the airy visions of their own heated brains. They figure to themselves, magnificent castles for the nobles, streets composed of splendid palaces for the rich, and every exterior of pomp and luxury; while the *people* form a back-ground to their picture, grouped in miserable classes of poverty and wretchedness. But what do they find the reality? Here Princes, Lords, and Commons, inhabit *one* description of houses; and many a wealthy Englishman devotes his life to the simplicity and domestic comforts of retirement.—No powerful

Baron presumes to aim at unbecoming pre-eminence; misery retires to the asylum which humanity provides for its relief; and an enviable equality is every where visible. The people appear to govern, while they obey; and never, on important questions, are they to be awed into a passive and abject submission.

The first hasty view of England, I fancy is much the same, at whatever point the traveller makes his outset; but the road between Dover and London is the most bustling, and it is this which I have to describe from my own observation.

Having left the former town, just before we reached Ewel, a fine luxuriant plain charmed the eye, and gave a just idea of the high cultivation of the country at large. No waste spot is discernible; but as far as the sight can reach, it feasts upon the most delicious

repast that superior industry and skill in husbandry can afford.

Every field or meadow is enclosed with live fences, and the farm-houses seem as though just built. These are usually encompassed with delightful pleasure-grounds, which appear in the most engaging forms of checquered variety ; every man pursuing his own fancy in the disposition of his land.

The pleasing impression produced by this invariable neatness and order, encreases the admiration of the stranger, who will often mistake the dwelling of a plain farmer, for the residence of an independent gentleman.

At one place where we stopped, I observed a very pleasing female sitting in an arbour with her four daughters dressed in white muslin. On our approach they hastened towards the coach, and I soon found that they were the family of one of my fellow-travellers. They re-

ceived him on his alighting, with indescribable tenderness.

“Pray who,” said I as we drove off, “are that Gentleman and Lady?”

“A farmer and his wife,” was the reply.

The first city we enter is Canterbury. The houses appeared to me small, being only three stories high; I afterwards found this the universal style of building here. They were, however, to me very striking in their appearance. The ground-floors mostly consist of elegantly disposed shops; presenting a large bow front of fine crown glass, filled with various merchandize. The pavement is good, clean, and kept in excellent repair; and the inhabitants, who are well dressed, pass and repass with such an air of cheerfulness and earnestness, that one would suppose they were preparing to celebrate a jubilee. This appearance, however, is unvaried.

“Then Canterbury must be a city of very extensive commerce?” “Certainly not. It reaches only the third class.”

On leaving this place we encounter a different sort of bustle. The perpetual succession of travellers, in carriages and on horseback, gives us more the idea of a populous city than of a high road. Indeed, many considerable boroughs on the Continent are less thronged. Coaches for public accommodation, called stages, are not only filled within, but still more crowded on the outside: they are remarkably well horsed, and very numerous. Travelling in England is certainly unparalleled elsewhere for convenience and expedition; and every kind of public carriage, except the long coaches, is equally safe and commodious.

As we approach the Metropolis, our ideas of the opulence of the country are expanded, by the magnificent view

which it presents from every quarter. Noblemen's seats, consisting of superb mansions in different styles of architecture; and parks, abounding with deer; plains, rivers, lakes, rich meadows, and well-grown woods, contribute to form one grand enchanting picture. In short, "the fairest isle the sun e'er visited within his wide career," discloses an infinity of beauties to the view.

Rochester continued into the towns of Chatham and Stroud, increase our amazement. They extend together three miles in a straight line; presenting a scene of neatness, elegance, and bustle, similar to that of Canterbury. It is wonderful to find a place of such consequence, so near a vast metropolis.

A few miles beyond Rochester, at a place called Chalk, the road winds a hill which commands a perfect view of the Thames; whose gay bosom, panting

beneath the treasure of the world, bears them in profusion to the capital.

But the most exquisite and luxuriant prospect in this road, occurs farther on, at Shooter's-hill. Old Father Thames is seen majestically pursuing his winding course through richly variegated meadows; here and there a town or village diversifies the scene, contrasting the blessings of agriculture with the benefits of commerce. The gently swelling hills of Surry casually arrest the progress of the wandering eye; while Greenwich, embosomed in a delightful park, in its turn engages the whole attention.

Stealing hence, the eye extends its search to where St. Paul's towers above a mighty forest of contending masts; beyond which the sister hills of Hampstead and Highgate close the perspective.

Many travellers have asserted, that

London presents a dark gloomy aspect; the houses being very smoky, the streets contracted, and the whole rendered impervious to the sun by low-passing clouds. By way of excuse for those gentlemen, it may be supposed that they only saw London during the months of April, November, or December. At these seasons of the year indeed a thick humid fog envelopes the whole for the greatest part of the day; and the smoke from coal-fires, being pressed down by the humidity of the atmosphere, floats through the streets in murky clouds: but in the spring and summer months, London is quite as cheerful in its appearance as any other large city whatever. It is true; the houses, which are mostly built of brick, and not whitewashed, suffer materially from this smoke, and gradually assume a greyish colour, which would give them a very gloomy appearance were they

not enlivened by other means. But the width of the principal streets, the cleanliness of the pavement, the splendour of the plate-glass windows, the indescribable magnificence of the shops, the continual throng of well-dressed people, and, above all, the lawns and gardens which enliven the grand squares, produce a chain of agreeable impressions unknown on the Continent, and leave us scarcely sensible of the absence of ornamental architecture.

For many days after my arrival in London, I was constantly employed in perambulating the town; but it was some time before I found myself capable of forming any comprehensive idea of its stupendous wonders. It is a singular fact, that in the zeal of discovery, I have often led my London friends through parts of the metropolis, of which they, born and bred within

its precincts, were altogether ignorant. It may therefore be easily conceived, that travellers whose stay is short, usually remain ignorant of the most interesting features of this picture, which requires to be seen with advantage from many points of view.

The Thames, for instance, affords abundant scope for contemplation or curiosity, if only cursorily observed from one of the three bridges, where every object is confined; and the *inquisitive* traveller feels himself, on no better title, authorized to descant on its beauties. But if we wish to survey the grand lineaments of this river, we must ascend the Monument, or St. Paul's; or if we would fix our observation to its central points, the Adelphi Terrace will fully gratify us. From the latter spot we have an uninterrupted view of Westminster and Blackfriars bridges; to the left Somerset-house appears in all

its magnificence :—on the opposite side of the water lies the Borough of Southwark, which forms a fine contrast to the gothic beauties of Westminster. We fancy it to be a large manufacturing town; black houses of various forms rising here and there in irregular heaps, crowned with clouds of smoke issuing from numerous furnaces. There are no ships on this part of the river: but thousands of barges and boats are perpetually passing; some with goods, others with passengers, the whole together forming an agreeable prelude to the unique perspective below the bridge.

Nothing can be more surprising than the eagerness of speculation which contributes daily to encrease this vast metropolis. I resided in Southampton-row, Bloomsbury; near which the Duke of Bedford is engaged in very extensive buildings, and has some thousands of workmen in constant employment.

I remember that on my return to town after an absence of some months, I could scarcely believe myself at home. On reviewing the neighbourhood, I could have fancied myself transported into a fairy world, where by the powers of a magic wand palaces and gardens had suddenly found existence. I paused and asked myself whether I had not previously seen these new streets, new squares, new gardens; in a word, this new city: or whether in reality the heaps of stones and rubbish which I had left piled up from the materials of old houses, had been metamorphosed into new and elegant buildings. People crowded along the well-lighted pavement, where I had left only obscure avenues; and every thing wore the appearance of enchantment. The opposite side of Southampton-row, late an open space, was not only built upon but inhabited; a coffee-house was open,

and some very handsome shops exposed their merchandize to sale! Tavistock-square, a new chapel already consecrated, and streets intersecting each other, were novelties that raised new wonders in my mind at almost every step I took.

Perhaps strangers may imagine that the distant parts of the metropolis are mouldering into decay, while this new-favoured spot exhibits such peculiar indication of taste and improvement; but their wonder will increase when I assure them that this spirit of enterprize is general, and may be discovered even in the poorest and most wretched parts of the town.

“But,” it may be asked, “does not this enormous metropolis swallow up the towns of the interior; and do not its monopolising riches reduce the most considerable of them to a state of listlessness and decline?”—No: it appears as

if the whole kingdom were inspired with one general soul, and that every town in it were increasing in the same proportion as the capital itself. London may be called the heart of this great empire; it infuses into all the members that vital energy with which its own surcharged pulses so proudly beat. If we visit Bath, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Newcastle; in short, all the great provincial towns, we perceive the same spirit of emulation, and the same diffusive opulence.

“Then these cities are thus richly embellished at the expence of the country at large; and while commerce and manufactures flourish, the blessings of luxuriant nature are greatly neglected?” By no means. Agriculture, and every branch of rural economy, flourish in England with unrivalled success. Even the details of farming engage the attention of the

higher classes; and the treasures accumulated by commerce in the city, are applied to the cultivation and improvement of the soil. The rich London merchant, retiring from the fatigue of the counting-house, creates an earthly paradise upon his estate, and generally terminates his busy life in the honourable distinction of being a country gentleman.

Nothing so effectually elucidates a point as comparison. I shall therefore frequently, in the course of this work, compare London with Paris; not however without being aware that my task is invidious. All persons have their prejudices, and these are sometimes too powerful to be conquered either by reflection or observation. *General* views often depend on *particular* optics; and prepossessions, national or political, cannot be expected to be without their influence.

Though both might intend the greatest impartiality, it would be difficult to find an Englishman and a Frenchman of the same opinion. Each will suppose and contend that the metropolis of his own country surpasses all others; though, while some points of resemblance may exist, they are in their general character and appearance wholly opposite.

Every traveller will say without hesitation, that London affords less enjoyment to a stranger, than any other metropolis in Europe. In this particular it certainly yields the palm to Paris: for without connections a man can do nothing in England; whereas at Paris, while we pursue pleasure, pleasure still follows at our heels. And yet I doubt whether an Englishman would candidly admit this fact. Hence modern French writers affirm, and with truth, that of all the European capitals,

London is the most dull and gloomy. To the superficial observer, I admit, it may appear so; but let a man *domesticate* in London, and form a free and extensive acquaintance with the inhabitants, and he will assuredly form a different opinion. To such a one every object will insensibly change its form: what at first appeared trivial, will assume consequence; and he will perceive those peculiar features which characterise a great and free people. He will forget the deficiency of external ornaments, so evident in all places of public amusement; he will cease to dwell on the importance of splendour and variety; while he contemplates with silent admiration the superior excellences of the prevailing constitution and system of laws.

All who have had an opportunity of viewing these two large cities, must admit that Paris surpasses London in the

number and beauty of its palaces. The latter cannot shew any public building that will admit of comparison with the Thuilleries, the Louvre, the Palais-royal, the palace of Luxemburg, the former dwellings of the Prince of Condé, of the Minister at War, the Minister of Marine, and many others, which are the unrivalled boast of Paris; nor do I know a single private building in London, which vies with any of those numerous hotels that formerly manifested the existence of a French nobility.

In Paris, every thing reminds us of its having been the residence of a splendid court, where the nobles rivalled each other in luxury and magnificence; but in London there are no traces of this kind. Indeed a stranger may live here some time before he discerns the presence of a court at all, which only manifests its grandeur on particular oc-

casions: and though much expensive profusion decorates the interior of the houses inhabited by the higher class of society, yet the outside of them inspires no ideas of exalted rank; and the building which exclusively claims the name of palace, and is the residence of England's kings, bears an appearance perfectly miserable.

From the *Pont-neuf* the eye wanders over an immense perspective, in which the magnificent quays shew an extended line of superb edifices: but the Thames affords no such objects; it exhibits no magnificence but its own, which however certainly surpasses that of any other river in the world. On the other hand, the streets of Paris are narrow, irregular, unpaved, and consequently filthy in the extreme; and besides this, so crooked, that we can have no perfect view along any one of them: but those of London are extremely grand

and spacious, excellently paved, and in general regular.

The *Place des Victoires*, and the *Place de Vendome*, are finely and regularly built, but are by no means lively. London has upwards of twenty squares on the more extensive scale; independently of others: the houses in these perhaps are not very large, or remarkable for their architecture; but who in his senses would exchange the cheerful impressions arising from the extreme neatness of these buildings, and the green lawns which they surround, for the vacant splendour of solitary palaces?

A traveller unaccustomed to any large city, will be surprised on entering Paris, at the population which it exhibits; but that surprise will be raised into wonder if he afterwards visits London, where he will encounter three times the number of passengers in every street. This difference is easily accounted for. In the

first place, London is in itself more populous than Paris: the returns of the latter, according to the most recent calculations, giving only 547,756 souls; whereas, agreeably to the records laid before the House of Commons in 1802, London is stated to contain 864,845 inhabitants. I have been assured too by a friend conversant with the subject, that this statement was entirely independent of the perpetual influx of foreigners, and strangers from all parts of the United Kingdom; as well as of the numerous soldiers and sailors on service here: so that London may be taken to contain nearly half a million of inhabitants more than Paris. But there are still more powerful reasons: London is avowedly the first commercial city in the world; and consequently the activity and industry of its inhabitants, give new life and diversity to every busy scene. It contains by far

a greater number of opulent idlers than Paris; and the number of travellers here exceeds that in any part of Europe. The latter fact is proved by the receipts of the London turnpikes, from which it appears that upwards of ten thousand persons daily pay toll at the several gates.—These causes together account for the superior populousness of the streets here; and it is no less true, that London, so vast in its compass, and so thronged as it is in all its avenues, appears scarcely large enough for the accommodation of its inhabitants.

The illuminations of Paris and London are unquestionably the most magnificent spectacles in Europe, but they differ both in their nature and their effect.

Paris on such an occasion presents a *coup-d'œil* calculated to lull the senses into a state of enchantment. The

magnificent arcades of the numerous palaces which decorate the banks of the river, appear like fairy castles; the effulgence of whose appearance is reflected, with almost inconceivable effect, on the placid bosom of the stream.

The baths floating on the Seine resemble meteors issuing from the water; while groupes of small craft, decorated with variegated lamps, form a moving picture of surprising splendour. Every distant object contributes to heighten the magnificence of the whole; till the mind catches the delusion from the eye, and each faculty participates the dominion of fancy.

If we follow the crowd from the quays to the Thuilleries, we shall behold a blazing wood, from the glare of which the dazzled eye cannot fail to shrink. In the Elysian Fields, which are contiguous to the palace, temples and py-

ramids brilliantly illuminated rise to the view in every direction; while music mingles with the plaudits of the spectators, and heightens the impression of the scene.

But here the effect ends. A stranger now perceives the whole to be a show prepared by government to amuse the people; and all other parts of the city are enveloped in their usual darkness.

In London, an illumination is a token of public rejoicing, voluntarily evinced by the people themselves. It is general, because every individual is interested, and every individual cordially contributes to its splendour.

The public buildings on this occasion cannot make much parade; as they do not, with the exception of the Bank, present any considerable *façade* for the purpose, and are otherwise disadvantageously situated: but the pri-

vate houses are superbly and fancifully decorated with lamps; so that in a long handsome street, the brilliancy is uninterrupted, and inexpressibly grand. In a word, what Paris displays from one particular position, London exhibits in every quarter. Each bye-street claims its share in the public rejoicing, and we wander about the town till we are lost in the contemplation of an object that appears without end.

The inequality of the buildings, and the circumstance of every occupier following his own fancy, prevent any regular plan of illumination; but this perpetual variety serves only to improve the scene. The eye might otherwise be fatigued with sameness; but now fancy and caprice create fresh objects of admiration at every step we take.

The devices at the west end, are usually crowns, stars, crescents, fo-
liaged pillars, festoons, garlands, &c.

but those in the city have little of either ingenuity or taste; at least, this was the case at the proclamation of the peace in 1802.

The latter decorations, on this occasion, were for the most part transparencies emblematical of naval conquests and national glory, portraits of the King, scrolls complimentary to commerce, busts of favourite admirals, or a whole-length figure of Britannia with an olive-branch.

There were however some of more merit. I remember the difficulty I had to pass at Charing-cross, where the whole town seemed to be collected in admiring a device displayed by a tasteful and ingenious watchmaker. It represented a vessel floating on illuminated waves, the motion of which was produced by clock-work; the whole surrounded by a garland of lamps, with the motto "Britain's glory."

The squares were illuminated with considerable taste and effect. The houses, by means of temporary contrivances, were transformed into splendid temples; and beautiful allegories were represented by transparent paintings.

Oxford-street, from its length, breadth, and nearly straight direction, afforded an enchanting perspective. As I advanced, squares, apparently on fire, burst on the view from either side with sudden and surprising effect. But the most extraordinary circumstance is, that whatever part of the town I visited, the crowd was so great that I might well have supposed every other spot deserted.

CHAP. II.

GENERAL View of the City—The Port of London—
The Custom-house — The Docks — The Wholesale
Trade—The Royal Exchange—The Bank of England
—The Retail Trade—Shops in general—Speculation—
Artifices — Pompous Titles — The Proclamation of
Peace: ceremony observed — Guildhall—Tower—
A Morning, Noon, and Night, in the City.

A FAITHFUL portrait of London, ought to comprehend a view of the various occupations to which the industry of the inhabitants severally directs their attention; but I must content myself with a sketch of its leading features.

Foreign travellers have asserted that the city of London consists of a chaos of irregular, narrow, dirty, and ill-built streets. It cannot indeed be expected

to find a commercial city of such magnitude, built in a regular or systematic order. When the manufactories and warehouses of London were first erected, little regard probably was paid to the beauty of the situation chosen: the most contiguous lot of land was considered the most eligible; as the population increased, these buildings gave way to dwelling-houses; and thus crooked streets arose out of the original want of plan.

But with all these disadvantages, which are confined to particular positions, the city contains many very broad and handsome streets, and these much more clean than any city on the Continent can boast. Many very considerable improvements have lately taken place; the principal streets have undergone great changes, so that a map made a few years since would now be of little use to a stranger. The

number and elegance of the shops have also materially encreased; and to the northward a new town has lately arisen, which promises eventually to rival the west end in beauty and extent.

The rapid succession in which objects meet the contemplation of a stranger is such, that he in vain looks for a point of view in which he may so concentrate the most important as to consider them at his leisure: they must therefore be observed individually.

The peculiar seat of commerce lies eastward of Temple-bar, where every thing we meet appears to relate in some degree to trade or navigation. Here we see the streets crowded with carts, carrying goods to and from the various warehouses; and the foot-pavement is always so thronged with men



of business, that it is often difficult to force a passage through them.

Many of the streets are irregular, narrow, and dark ; and in these we meet a different sort of people from those in the gay world. Here at intervals a cross street opens on the Thames, discovering vessels passing in full sail, among fleets of others lying at anchor. When the colliers arrive in the Pool, their cargoes are immediately sent in barges to different wharfs for sale.

Billingsgate is the principal fish-market ; and the celebrated rendezvous of a peculiar order of females who carry on the business here, and who are proverbially the lowest class of the populace. I hastily left them after being almost stunned by their noise, and disgusted by the odour of the place.

Proceeding hence toward the Tower, we find the houses of a meaner ap-

pearance than those we have been accustomed to see; but these are, in every direction, overtopped by the lofty warehouses of the East and West-India merchants. In these narrow streets the crowd encreases; and all appear moving to one common centre, the Custom-house.

This building is extensive, but quite deficient of the taste and grandeur which distinguish the Custom-house of Dublin. It is, however, conveniently calculated to store the riches which flow into it from all parts of the world, and furnishes the barometer by which the skilful statesman learns to appreciate the rise and fall of national prosperity.

Immense cranes are in perpetual motion to unload the ships as they arrive, and the goods are deposited in warehouses till the duties are paid. At every door we meet multitudes of

people passing in and out; in whose countenances may be read the various passions of hope, joy, surprise, anxiety, vexation, and disappointment.

On ascending the stairs we enter the Long-room, where the crowd is as excessive as below. Here a great number of book-keepers hold their respective official situations.

Pursuing our way eastward, the appearance of the houses becomes still more wretched. The merchants' warehouses vanish entirely, and instead of them we meet with ship-brokers' stores; a class of building destitute of every outward mark to please the eye.

We next come among the rope-makers, ship-carpenters, ship-painters, &c. Here seafaring men and their families mostly live.

Large docks, constantly improving, are also in the neighbourhood. Crooked lanes intersect each other at irregular

angles; and to encrease the unpleasantness of the situation, it is the dirtiest in the whole metropolis.

On a sudden, however, we emerge from this dull scene, and the view opens upon a magnificent prospect of the London Docks, constructed for the reception of West-India ships. They consist of two immense basons, capable of receiving five hundred large ships. At one side of these docks, warehouses have been erected, which form the finest range of the kind in all Europe.

The large fleets of merchantmen which continually crowd the river, are in themselves sufficient indication of the extensive wholesale trade carried on here, and which alone might evince this to be the first commercial city in the world: and in fact it is only from this circumstance that a stranger can form any such judgment; for the

wholesale trade, aspiring merely to surprise with the grandeur of its influence, appears wholly without external pretensions. It hides itself in remote corners; and we see with astonishment prodigious stores adjoining very insignificant houses, on the doors of which are written the names of the most opulent merchants.

A foreigner having letters to merchants of consequence in the city, might have considerable trouble to find in his maps (if he found at all) Great and Little St. Helen's; and yet in these obscure courts some of the most wealthy among the merchants keep their counting-houses. Nor would he be less surprised to find his banker concealed within the dark recesses of Lombard-street: indeed his wonder would still increase to learn that a great part of the money of the United Kingdom is kept there; and that the

most opulent bankers in the world have chosen this narrow, dark, uncomfortable street, for the transaction of their concerns.

Nor is either the Bank of England, or the Royal Exchange, calculated to raise a traveller's expectation respecting the vast extent of the London wholesale trade. The latter is built without the least taste; and great as the crowd is which flocks thither between one and three o'clock every afternoon, I am of opinion that the Exchange of Amsterdam exhibits a more busy scene.

The Bank is equally unimpressing on the whole, yet contains two rooms worthy of observation. One of these is the Cashier's hall, an immense apartment filled with various offices, at which formerly bank-notes were changed for cash, but are now merely for other notes. The other is an extremely elegant rotunda, adorned with a cupola

which admits the light. Here we meet a crowd of stock-jobbers, rich Jews, foreign merchants, and bankers of the lower order: a sort of indistinct clamour resounds through the room; some are occupied in ascertaining the course of exchange, others in buying and selling stock, others in fabricating false intelligence to enhance their bargains; but upon the whole this busy scene is conducted with much apparent indifference, though it is a focus of intrigue and of commercial deception.

To mingle with the first-rate city characters, we must visit the principal auction-rooms; where coal and tin mines, and valuable foreign plantations in the East and West Indies, are daily exposed to sale. These great objects of purchase collect together all the most distinguished men of business, Indian stock-owners, and directors of the bank.

The retail dealers employ every kind of shew and device to allure the passenger, and labour by some happy conceit to give celebrity to their respective shops.

A razor-maker on Ludgate-hill is said to have realized a fortune of many thousand pounds by pompously announcing to the public on a large board, in gilt letters three feet high, that "*his incomparable razors are made and sold here;*" but as soon as shops have thus acquired reputation, other tradesmen adopt a similar stratagem.

A grocer in the city once put up as a sign a large bee-hive, which soon drew extraordinary custom to his shop. Upon this, many others in the trade adopted the bee-hive with success; when the first adopter of this alluring sign advertised in the public papers, that *he was the sole proprietor of the original and celebrated bee-hive,*

warning the public to *beware of counterfeits*.

The same happened to another grocer in Cheapside, the excellence and cheapness of whose goods had acquired him an extensive sale. His sign was an enormous grasshopper; which animal, in a short time, had so multiplied its species throughout the city, that the person here alluded to entreated the public in his advertisements to observe, that *his* was the *only genuine and unadulterated grasshopper*.

Another way to gain repute is, to emblazon a shop with the royal arms, which announce that the proprietor is patronized by some particular branch of the royal family. This in fact is a privilege enjoyed by few, though assumed by many. Those really possessing such a distinction, invariably illuminate their shops on the birth-night of their royal patron; and

so eagerly is the honour coveted, that many tradespeople execute orders for such as enjoy this enviable patronage, that they may have a pretext to use the royal arms. For instance, a certain hatter in the Strand has decorated his shop with the armorial bearings of the Prince of Wales, merely because he has worked on commission for his royal highness's hatter. I mention these trifling circumstances, as they appear to me characteristic of the commercial spirit of the London tradesmen.

Sometimes this is carried to a truly ludicrous extent. In the vicinity of Leicester-square we see a neat shop where quack medicines are sold, the occupier of which styles himself "bug-destroyer to his majesty." In the New-road a very facetious gentleman tells the public on a splendid sign-post, that he is "purveyor of asses' milk

to their royal highnesses the duke and duchess of York."

Independantly of those already mentioned, there are other artifices employed by London shopkeepers to gain celebrity. It is really amusing to read in the papers a farrago of eccentricities, whipped up and suited to the palates of novelty-hunters and superficial observers. Invention is racked in giving authority to wonderful stories, by which the articles so offered are proved to surpass all others, past, present, or to come.

I shall record one other plan to catch the notice of the public, and then take leave of this inexhaustible subject.

A young man (whose name I shall here call Bell), having constructed a new kind of lead pencils, opened a very gay shop, where he exposed his goods for sale. The papers

teemed with his advertisements to prove the superiority of his invention; and every corner of the streets informed you, by a hand-bill, where "the best pencils in the world" were sold: but still Mr. Bell had the mortification not to see a single bundle emigrate from his window. At length a sudden demand for *Bell's pencils* echoed from one stationer's shop to another, throughout the town; and happy was he who could first procure so valuable an article. This was owing to the following circumstance:

Several parties, in very dashing equipages, drove to the most celebrated stationers, and sent their servants in to inquire for Bell's lead-pencils. The master at each place eagerly ran to the door, full of regret that he had no such articles; but said he had other pencils of an excellent quality, which he presented. "Is it possible," cried one of the

ladies, "that you have no Bell's pencils? I cannot use any other. John, bid the coachman drive to some *better* shop." The stationer, quite dismayed, requests that *her ladyship* will do him the honour to wait a minute, and he will procure them for her. The fame of Bell's pencils, in an hour, spreads from one stationer's shop to another, by this *fashionable* demand for them; and before night, every shop of consequence in town has "Bell's pencils sold here" inscribed in the window.

But who were these fashionables? Friends of Mr. Bell, in *hired* carriages, who executed the joke which he had so happily conceived. His pencils have since continued in high repute.

With the ideas which a stranger must naturally form of the importance of the wholesale and the extent of the

retail trade in London, it is natural to suppose that he will expect to find the civil government of so considerable a city invested with suitable dignity; but here he will be very much disappointed.

Shortly after my arrival in London, I had an opportunity of witnessing the proclamation of peace. The public mind was raised to such a pitch of curiosity on this occasion, that families came from all adjacent parts, and many from a distance in the country, to witness this splendid pageant. The windows of the streets through which the procession was to pass, were hired at an enormous rate; scaffoldings were erected wherever there was room; and the number of people in coaches and on foot exceeded all description. The importance of the occasion afforded a fine opportunity for combining the splendour of the court with

the opulence of the city ; but the event entirely disappointed the public anxiety on this interesting subject.

On the part of the court, a marshal attended by several heralds, a regiment of life-guards, and a mob of constables, formed the procession ; and on that of the city, a double row of volunteers made a line for the lord-mayor, sheriffs, and other municipal officers to pass on horseback to Temple-bar, the gates of which were closed. Here the herald, in the name of his royal master, demanded of the lord-mayor, as sovereign of the city, that the gates should be opened ; which being done, one party returned to the palace, and the other to the mansion-house. The city officers wore their usual dress.

All civic ceremonies (such as the instalment of the lord-mayor, the election of sheriffs and city officers, &c.) take place in a large Gothic room at

Guildhall. The exterior of this building is heavy, and without any pretension to taste; but the lofty vaulted entrance, and the Gothic hall, possess much grandeur. On the whole, however, this edifice, like most other monuments of art in London, is disfigured by its ornaments. Opposite the entrance, in the middle of the hall, is a cumbrous balcony without any use, the roof of which is supported by twelve iron pillars. Just above it are placed two gigantic figures, twelve feet high; the one representing an ancient Briton, and the other a Saxon. They are habited in coats of mail, and each of them is armed with a spear. Their mustachios are terrific; their eyebrows close, full, and black; their faces of the colour of a tile; and their whole appearance very martial.

Among the antiquities of the city,

the Tower claims the first rank. It is considered by the Londoners as comprising the greatest curiosities of the metropolis: on which account the fashionable world, who shun all tendency to mingle with the city dames, speak contemptuously of its attraction; and I believe it would be impossible to force an *élégante* to, confess that female curiosity had led her thithither even *incog*. In fact, however, the only remarkable circumstance attached to it is, its having been formerly the scene of many remarkable and tragic events connected with the national history, that appeal more powerfully to the mind when reflecting upon them on the very spot where they occurred.

Nothing can be more opposite, than the manners of the west and those of the east end of the town;

and an intelligent traveller may collect from this the general character of the nation at large.

The fashionables leave London regularly for half the year, while the city still contentedly pursue their business behind the counter. The city therefore does not lose its attraction when the west end is deserted; but the middle of spring is the season when London is most numerously inhabited. Nor is the population confined to an ebb and flow resulting from the seasons: it varies with the hour of the day, as I shall describe.

Let us leave the Strand at six o'clock on a fine spring morning, and make a tour of the city. At this time the street is perfectly empty: no shops are open; the lamps are still burning; no noise of wheels is heard, except from a mail-coach that may be returning to town. Presently a few

passengers appear; such as carpenters, bricklayers, &c. going to their several avocations: the streets near the Thames begin to fill with people; and carts, drays, &c. are now in motion.

At eight o'clock the city shops are opened; the shopmen are busy in disposing their goods to advantage in their windows; the hackney-coaches begin to rattle, and the bustle encreases every minute. The man of business goes in search of bargains; the unmarried man calls for his breakfast at a coffee-house, reads the papers, arranges his pocket-book for the day, and proceeds to the bank.

At nine o'clock bankers and rich merchants come to their counting-houses from their country boxes, in elegant equipages; and all the streets near the Thames are crowded in the extreme.

This bustle gradually encreases till

about one o'clock, when every thing is alive. Carriages from the west end then begin to crowd the city; and form a pompous contrast to the infinity of carts, hackney-coaches, and tilt-waggon, which they encounter every moment. The foot-pavement all this time is so thronged, that it is difficult to get along. A stranger who sees this for the first time, will scarcely believe his friend who tells him that it is a common scene; but it is so, and the picture of a single day is that of every other. Men of business now go upon 'Change.

About three the fashionables have finished shopping, and return homewards; and now the Bank and Exchange close, and the merchants repair to dinner.

At five o'clock the city coffee-houses fill with company; and the avenues adjacent to the Thames are quite

deserted, while the more central part of the city still maintains its crowd and confusion in the streets.

Towards dark the shops display their elegant lamps, and in such profusion as to produce a very brilliant effect: but all this expence is not without its policy; for their articles are improved by this glare, and even the most trifling object thus acquires importance; faded goods are now exposed to sale with advantage, and trade is perhaps more brisk than in the former part of the day. The lottery-office keepers are remarkable for their shew in this way: each has transparencies affixed to the different panes of his windows; exhibiting the figure of Fortune blind, some happy motto to snare the ignorant, and a long list of the prizes sold at his own office year after year.

And now thousands of unfortunate women begin to infest the streets, to

the convenience of some and annoyance of others. Here January and May cheerfully coalesce, and smiles are tributary to the splendid guinea.

At ten o'clock the shops close; the streets consequently darken, and the crowd gradually disperses. Now gamblers, house-breakers, and robbers of all descriptions, steal from their haunts, and sally forth in quest of their appropriate prey; but the public streets are so much frequented till after midnight, and so well guarded by the common watchmen and the police during the whole night, that open attacks are infinitely more rare than in those of any metropolis on the Continent.

CHAP. III.

The West End of the Town—Causes of its increase—Plan of the Streets—Architecture—Vast Riches of the Nobility—St. James's Palace—The Court—St. James's Park—The Green Park—Piccadilly—New Bond-street: compared with the *Palais royal*—Coffee-rooms of Paris and London contrasted—Squares—A Morning, Noon, and Night—Grand Prospect from the Ball of St. Paul's—Exclamation of a Patriot.

THE west end of the town comprises the city of Westminster; and that part of the metropolis which borders on the city of London south of Westminster, and east of Temple-bar.

Both houses of parliament, the royal residence, and the chief courts of judicature, are situated in Westminster. Fo

reign ambassadors, many of the nobility, and members of the house of commons, inhabit this quarter: and here I shall take occasion to account for that vast encrease of the metropolis which I have noticed in a former chapter.

More families have been ennobled during the present than in the three preceding reigns, and it is more the custom of the present day for the nobility to associate with opulent commoners. These high ranks of society now pass at least half the year in town; and instead of hiring houses for their accommodation during such residence, constantly keep up their town-establishments.

Thus the speculative landholder in the suburbs, finds his advantage in transforming meadows into squares; and builds handsome streets, calculated for the residence of the affluent. These streets are for the most part

wide, and regular in their plan. A suitable correspondence in the houses is observed; excluding, as far as it is practicable, the incroachment of tradespeople.

It appears to be the peculiar wish of the opulent, though they live in the midst of fashionable clamour, to avoid scrupulously the hurry and confusion of a shop. But the latter surmounts all obstacles; and some of the squares are, in defiance of all the fashionable generalship, besieged by enterprising tradesmen. Indeed it is common to see handsome shops in streets which ten years ago were exclusively the residence of nobility; but the encrease of luxury in the kingdom is provided for by the magnificent houses of Portland-place, the improvements of the Duke of Bedford, and others too capacious for the purposes of any retail trade whatever.

In calling these houses *magnificent*, I speak on the English scale; for the largest of them does not present a front of more than fifty or sixty feet. In Germany there are houses which occupy a whole street; and having been accustomed to the sight of those extensive dwellings, I had much difficulty on my first arrival in England, though I admired the extreme neatness of the houses, to persuade myself that they were inhabited by the higher ranks of the wealthiest people in the world.

There are, however, some exceptions: for the residence of the dukes of Northumberland, Portland, and Devonshire, the marquis of Lansdown, the Earls of Uxbridge, Chesterfield, and Spencer, and a few others, are of a superior kind.

The princely fortunes requisite to support the establishment of even the smaller buildings here described, must fill the mind with unbounded ideas of

the vast riches and prosperity of the English nation; and such are the splendour and luxury displayed in their entertainments, that no one with a less annual income than ten thousand pounds can presume to encounter the expences of the higher circles. To this add the wealth of the city, acquired by intense application and transcendent commercial merit, and the most prejudiced observer must be convinced, that in no times, nor by any nation, was the prosperity of Britain equalled.

In other European states the tide of wealth fluctuates: when great power is vested in the nobility, commerce is on the decline, and the peasantry drooping in either bondage or wretchedness; and if, on the contrary, commerce flourishes, the nobility have nothing left but the pomp of lineage, and titles unsupported even by independence. In England alone all classes

of society rise in the same proportion : here they are so united in a general interest, that the annihilation of one part would be fatal to the whole system.

I do not mean that the English *mob* (which is indeed more numerous, less tractable, and more to be feared, than that of any other country) forms any part of this great chain. By *classes* I wish to describe all those who set in motion, and support the existence of, the great political body; the welfare of which produces this unexampled eminence.

Of all the objects of curiosity in this part of the town, the king's palace is least calculated to give a stranger the idea of a great nation. The Palace of St. James stands in an obscure situation, and resembles an old monastery; its interior however is more spa-

cious than would be imagined. It contains several irregular courts, opening on different parts of the Park; but is, on the whole, as remarkable for its dreary aspect, as other royal residences are for the gay scenes which surround them.

In the Park, and near the palace, is Buckingham (otherwise called the Queen's) house, the town residence of their majesties. Private levees, balls, concerts, and other entertainments divested of court formality, are given here. These parties, I have been assured, are by far less splendid than those of the nobility; but present an example of affability worthy the imitation of the latter. Buckingham-house contains many valuable pieces of art and antiquity, which I shall describe hereafter. The building is not large; but rather tasteful, and plea-

santly situated. Behind it are the Queen's Gardens; and on one side is the Green-park.

Piccadilly, one of the finest streets in London, contains a number of elegant houses; that of the French ex-minister, De Calonne, is particularly so.

New Bond-street is to London, what the *Palais Royal* was formerly to Paris. The latter certainly preserves the superiority of appearance, but it has long ceased to be the spot of attraction among the Parisians; and its beautiful arcades are now filled with foreigners assembled by curiosity, young officers, and a certain class of females who reside there. Sometimes indeed in the evening, may be found a tolerable assemblage of beauty and fashion; but the shops are by no means comparable with those of Bond-street.

A London and a Parisian coffee-house, form the most striking contrast

possible. The latter is one perpetual scene of cheerfulness and gaiety: the windows are lofty; the walls and pillars are covered with large mirrors; and round tables with marble slabs stand in various parts of the room, surrounded by chairs. Thus, we have at one glance a view of the company, who are discussing the news of the day with extreme volubility. The former appears to a foreigner, more like a small dark chapel than a place of entertainment. It is usually so deep, that the windows are insufficient to give it proper light: and there are no large mirrors, or elegant ornaments; but merely rows of boxes, in which are tables; with high-backed benches on each side, having curtains above of red or green stuff, strung on a brass rod. Thus the company of one box are completely excluded from the view of their next neighbours: and

this abominable contrivance increases the darkness of the room; while, as if gloom was a necessary appendage to a coffee-house, part of the front windows are concealed by curtains: this last arrangement however is made to exclude the gaze of passengers in the street.

On entering an English coffee-room, a foreigner might very readily conceive that he had found a Quaker's meeting, where the pious congregation awaited the inspiration of the spirit to cheer the melancholy stillness of the place. After dinner, it must be confessed, the port wine appears to open the hearts, and untie the tongues of the company; but still the scene is so dull, that I never visited one of these places without reluctance, and always left it as soon as possible.

This sketch describes not merely the ordinary coffee-houses, but those of the first ton. In one respect, however, the

English surpass those of Paris; I mean in the well-dressed company who frequent them: for in Paris the best are infested by a set of shabby beggarly fellows.

The numerous squares contribute most essentially to embellish this part of the town. They consist of large regular areas; the buildings around which, correspond in architectural order and ornaments. The centre, enclosed by a handsome iron railing, is in general fancifully arranged out in grass-plots, shrubberies, and gravel-walks. Here the inhabitants, who alone have entrance into these gardens, promenade in the morning free from intrusion. This taste for the simplicity of nature, in the very focus of luxury, is very prevalent among the English; whose character in that, as well as in other instances, frequently reminds me of the ancient Athenians.

The polite world give as much variety to the day, as the bustling citizens; but it begins at a different hour. Till eleven in the morning, all the streets in this part of the town are still and desolate. We may see a groom here and there, repairing to his master for orders; or tradesmen attending for commissions: but otherwise not a soul is visible.

At one, the streets begin to fill with carriages and saddle-horses; and now the people of fashion begin to move. The ladies form parties to go shopping; and the gentlemen, accompanied by single grooms, sally forth on a morning's ride. In the mean time the squares fill with ladies in their morning dress, presenting lovely groupes to the observation of the passenger. Carriages then crowd into Bond-street, making it almost impassable; and the frequent stoppages at the different shops abound-

ing in every article of taste and luxury, create much confusion.

While the ladies are thus engaged, the gentlemen pass on horseback up and down the street, to see and to be seen; and the foot pavement is so perfectly covered with elegantly dressed people, as to make it difficult to move.

At three o'clock Piccadilly presents a similar scene: and all the world hurries to Hyde-park; whence the procession returns between four and five, and thus the morning concludes.

This part of the town at night appears more gloomy than the city, for want of the illuminations from the shop windows: but there are regular rows of lamps; and here and there a remarkable glare breaks out from a number of carriages in motion or surrounding some particular door. This latter circumstance indicates a rout; a scene of much confusion, at which ac-

cidents often happen: for the coachmen, in setting down and taking up, drive furiously against each other: the ladies scream, the lords swear, the carriages are much damaged, and the footmen of one party quarrel with those of the other. But such is the eagerness of people after these dashing assemblies, that the house will seldom hold the number of guests.

In other streets we shall scarce meet a creature, unless it be some frail nymph prowling for a hard-earned supper.

There are some large houses in this quarter, which to a stranger appear mysterious. They are enveloped in darkness; and distinguished by a glass door covered with green silk curtains, through which a faint light is emitted. Hackney-coaches drive frequently to them, and disappear again the moment they set down a lady and gentleman, who vanish through the mystic door,

invisibly half opened for their admission. At first I thought these must be meeting-houses of some pious sect; but observing that the parties who visited this temple came invariably by pairs, the riddle was soon solved.

The play is generally over at eleven o'clock, when above five thousand leave the two theatres. The adjacent streets are then choaked up by gentlemen's carriages and hackney-coaches, and the pickpockets do not fail to benefit by the confusion.

As it is thus various in its different points of view, a stranger would do well to ascend some eminence by day, where he may survey the whole, if he wishes to establish a comprehensive idea of this vast metropolis. I chose St. Paul's for this purpose, and found a remarkable difference between London and Paris.

On mounting the dome of the Pan-

theon, or that of the Invalids, in the latter city, the eye will at once clearly compass the whole prospect of Paris to its remotest boundaries: but from the cupola of St. Paul's we can only discover an immense mass of houses; which, on almost every side, but particularly in the western view, increases without end the more we survey it.

This majestic pile of building is situated in nearly a central position, and is visited by all travellers; but as its architectural beauties, and interior curiosities, have been so frequently and so amply described, I shall be silent on their merits.

On a perfectly clear summer's day (for if the weather is in the least dull, the summit of St. Paul's is always enveloped in a cloud of smoke), in company with a friend, I mounted to the interior of the ball. Visitors usually content themselves with going as high

as the upper gallery, which is of considerable elevation and compass, and affords a prospect in every direction; but we determined to go as high as possible, though this inclination can only be indulged at the risk of one's neck.

It is far less dangerous to climb the minster of Strasburgh, which has a stone stair-case reaching to its summit; and though the open Gothic windows shew a frightful abyss below, still a wall supports us to the right, and ensures our safety: but the ball of St. Paul's is mounted by the very perilous assistance of four long ladders placed one upon another; there is no sort of railing to steady us, and one false step would inevitably hurl us into eternity. The descent is still more dangerous.

The ball will contain six persons, and affords a prospect which in grandeur and extent surpasses every thing

of the kind to be elsewhere witnessed. The metropolis appears a moving miniature, on a grand scale. The whole course of the river, the bridges, shipping, Tower, and the borough of Southwark, form one point of view: another is the west end; where the parks form a beautiful contrast with the streets, while Westminster abbey and Drury-lane theatre become prominent features in this part of the picture. The adjacent villages appear to join the town, and form a collective mass whose limits are lost in the concavity of the descending clouds.

I had a short time before conversed with my friend on the political situation of England; and as our joint remarks remained fresh in his memory, he exclaimed enthusiastically, "What! shall this seat of enterprise, opulence, and industry, supported by freedom, at once decay into ruin? And shall this

great, good, and gallant people, barter these blessings for the galling yoke of military despotism? No: Britons will never tamely give up the last refuge of Liberty to the sway of tyranny and slavery. By heaven, I could not survive the change!" This zealous patriot was an Irishman.

We now left our elevated post, filled with admiration at the grandeur of the entertainment which it had afforded us.

CHAP. IV.

LOUNGERS in London and in Paris—Their Ton—The Day of an Englishman of Fashion—The Contrast between French and English Manners—Male Gossips of Paris—Male Coquets of London—The Morning of an English *Élégante*—Two Canary-birds—Maillardet's Automatical Exhibition—Merlin's Mechanical Museum—The Baron Phillipsthal's Phantasmagoria—Exhibition in Ivory—Miss Linwood's Needlework—Wedgewood's Manufactory—Panoramas—Auction-Rooms: Mr. Christie's—His Oratory—A very fine piece of hanging Wood.

LOUNGERS are a numerous class of people who, without any particular occupation or pursuit, parade the fashionable streets to kill time and avert *ennui*.

In small towns, where every man's actions are marked, these idlers confine themselves to their rooms; but in large cities they range a particular district, to which they attach a fashion. This

class is no where so numerous as in London, because no place abounds so much in opulent and unemployed individuals.

The summer of these gentlemen passes at some one or more of the watering-places: and the winter invariably in the centre of attraction, London; where folly and dissipation are adopted as a remedy for the *blue devils*. This is a complaint to which an idle Englishman is very subject; and such is its baneful influence, that if uncorrected by moments of gaiety and mirth, it becomes an habitual disease which will either send him abroad in pursuit of novelty to recruit his exhausted spirits, or will drive him to despair.

The public places are crowded with these satiated beings; who yawn over the enjoyments that court their approbation, and pine for pleasures in the

very bosom of variety. But the disease is sanctioned by fashion, and has even crept into the livelier bosom of a Parisian, transforming his ease and volubility into a sort of sentimental apathy. Ask a Parisian of high life how he passes his time, and he will reply with a melancholy shrug, "*Je m'ennuie*." See him at the opera, or in the promenade, he will seem to forget his female partner who hangs upon his arm, and yawn in reply to any question she may ask him.

Shall we then most pity the *unhappy* man to whom fortune has presented the *overflowing* cup, or the wretch who, like Tantalus, starves in the midst of that plenty which awaits *others*, but shrinks for ever from *his* grasp? I believe it will not be amiss to rank the skill of *enjoying life* among the *fine arts*, a proficiency in which is confined to the select few.

I will attempt to sketch the day of a young man of fashion; and of such a one a single day describes the whole life.

He thinks of rising about eleven in the morning; and having taken a slight breakfast, he puts on his riding coat and repairs to his stables.

Having inspected his horses, asked a hundred questions of his coachmen and grooms, and given as many orders, he either rides on horseback, or in his curricie, attended by two grooms, dashing through all the fashionable streets, into Hyde-park. If, however, the weather is unfavourable, he takes his chariot, and visits the shops of the most noted coachmakers and sadlers, who never fail to receive him with profound respect. After bespeaking something or other here, he repairs to Tattersall's; where he meets all his friends seriously engaged in studying

the pedigree or merits of the horses to be sold ; or in discussing the invaluable properties of a pointer, setter, courser, or other sporting dog.

He then drives from one exhibition to another, stops at the caricature-shops, and about three drives to a fashionable hotel. Here he takes his lunch, reads the papers, arranges his parties for the evening, and at five strolls home.

His toilet he finds prepared, and his valet waiting. He looks at the cards which have been left for him in the course of the morning, and gives his orders accordingly. At seven he is dressed ; and either goes to some party to dinner, or returns to the hotel where he had previously arranged with some friends the *order of the day*.

At nine he goes to the play : not to see it, which would be a shocking in-

fringement on the laws of fashionable decorum; but to flirt from box to box; to look at ladies whom he knows, and to shew himself to others whom he does not; to lounge about the lobbies, take a review of the frail beauties in the coffee-room, and saunter back to his carriage. He then drives to a rout, a ball, or the faro-bank of some lady of distinction, who conceals her own poverty by displaying the full purses of others.

About four in the morning, exhausted with fatigue, he returns home; to recommence, the next morning, the follies of the day past.

A Parisian man of fashion is a less solitary being. He mixes more with the female world, and increases his pleasures by participation. He seldom even rides out alone: he goes shopping with some favourite, and assists in choosing her dress; for his judg-

ment on female ornaments is a standard not to be disputed. She entrusts him, not with *her* secrets or intrigues, but with those of all her female friends. He smatters in poetry and the *belles lettres*, accomplishments unknown to the Englishman: he even composes dramatic criticisms, which in London are left to the news-writers.

But the great difference between the two characters is, that an English youth may grow wiser and reform; but the Parisian, with all his polish, remains an effeminate coxcomb through life; and though he may, if it be the fashion, affect some degree of sensibility, yet a good or noble sentiment never enters the dark recesses of his contracted soul. No statesman in the annals of recent patriotism can be compared with the Honourable Charles James Fox, in greatness and capacity of mind; yet it is a well-known fact,

that in his youth he was a ringleader in the circle of fashionable flippancy and folly: but perhaps subsequently devoted five-and-thirty years of his life to the service of his country; with an unshaken firmness of principle, and unequalled display of abilities.

But there is a more singular description of men, at least in Paris, whose foible may deserve a moment's consideration. I mean the class of male gossips, who attach themselves in parties to particular coffee-houses, where they as regularly meet to discuss the scandal of the day, as if it was a duty connected with their very existence.

Every genteel coffee-house in Paris swarms with these beings, who are considered by the landlords in no higher light than as superabundant fixtures to the room. They subscribe to the Lyceums; where they occupy

the seats of the literati, sleep during the lectures of Curier or Fourcroy, and afterwards express their rapture at what they have *not* heard.

There are also a species of male coquets in London, certainly not one shade less ridiculous than the former: old fools who affect the dress, the levity, the pleasures, of youth; and frequent the seminaries of licentiousness, where they pay for the pleasures which they cannot enjoy. A noble duke in London is celebrated for having joined the fox chace when seventy years of age. He was a regular frequenter of every race-course, and piqued himself equally on the publicity of his amours with every young creature who would listen to his gilded proposals. With Bacchus he made as free as with Venus; and still exists, a monument of public ridicule. These instances however are rare in England;

and never escape the scourge of satire, or the pencil of the caricaturist.

The women of fashion are another class of idlers; and like those of Paris, usually pass the morning in driving about or visiting. They are to be found at all the distinguished shops, where they are for ever giving orders for baubles of all kinds. They are accompanied in these excursions by sisters, daughters, or intimate friends; but very rarely admit a gentleman to these parties. In Paris it is quite otherwise, for a *cicesbeo* is a natural appendage to female rank. In Italy, ladies of the first families appear at the Veri et Frescate arm in arm with gentlemen. In London this would be fatal to the reputation of the lady so attended: but there are pastry-cooks' shops at which the ladies unreservedly enter into familiar chit-chat with their male acquaintance; and if a stranger,

from this circumstance, were disposed to harbour a doubtful opinion of them, the sight of the equipages round the door would soon correct him.

At public places ladies never appear alone; the mixture of company would not permit it. It has been asserted that curiosity is a prominent feature in the female disposition: and this I think I have seen verified, at least in London; for wherever there is an exhibition of any kind, the ladies form the most considerable part of the audience.

The public prints here daily announce some novelty to attract the inquisitive and amuse the idle. The fate of these shews often depends on some accidental circumstance, but when once sanctioned by fashion, the proprietor may be at rest, for his fortune is made.

A pair of artificial canary-birds was detained, for the non-payment of the

duty, at the custom-house, during my first residence in London; and as they were spoken of for great curiosities, every body flocked to see them there; and among others Mr. Pitt. This trifling circumstance gave the birds uncommon celebrity: it became a joke with the Opposition, and the papers of every day contained some witticism upon the occasion.

In a short time, the birds were sold by auction at the custom-house; and bought by a print-seller in Cockspur-street, for five hundred guineas. The speculation was, certainly, a good one; for scarcely was it known that these birds were to be publicly exhibited, than the man's house was quite besieged; and when they had been in his possession a month, another person, who had calculated on the effect of the public mania, offered him two thousand guineas for them; but the

original purchaser was too well pleased with them to sell them even at this enormous price.

There was nothing extraordinary in the construction, or beauty, of these celebrated birds, which on the winding up of a flageolet in the bottom of the cage, sang delightfully. But who has not seen hundreds of such pieces of mechanism equally striking? In Germany, they might have sold for twenty guineas, certainly not more; and even at that sum, they would not readily have found a purchaser.

In the present case, the man not only made a considerable sum by them; but also brought his shop into fashion, which was a still more lasting advantage. When the caprice of the Londoners was satisfied, the birds made a tour of the kingdom, strongly recommended to the attention of the public,

by the flattering reception they had experienced in town.

If such a gew-gaw could so successfully attract the curiosity of the Londoners, it may be naturally expected, that works of art and science are nobly patronised.

This has been the case with some exhibitions, which, though they have existed for many years, are still universally encouraged.

Maillardet's, in Spring Gardens, will forcibly attract a stranger, nor is his expectation disappointed.

It consists of a female automaton, elegantly attired, and seated at a piano, on which she plays sixteen different tunes.

Any person, touching the keys, will be convinced the music results from the pressure of the automaton's finger, and not from any musical barrel in the machinery: indeed, all the works are

visible to the company, so that no doubt can remain.

This is a most happy effect of human ingenuity; the figure, while playing, expressively moves her head; her fine bosom gently undulates with the swell of the instrument, and her eyes, which are admirably wrought, languish in their orbits.

That men of ingenuity should endeavour to profit by the prevailing taste for nick-knackeries, is easily imagined: accordingly a M. Coxe, some years ago, exhibited a magnificent museum, containing the most expensive curiosities, of all descriptions, which rendered his exhibition one of the finest in London. It still, in some degree, exists, but was shut on account of numerous creditors upon the property.

This, however, in the opinion of those who remember M. Coxe, has

found an ample substitute in the unique and ingenious museum of Mr. Merlin, in Prince's-street, Hanover-square.

He is, by birth, a German; native of Liege; and at once the inventor and manufacturer of his various curiosities: his talents are very extraordinary, and he has attained perfection without instruction. It is certainly to be regretted, that he has employed these talents in mere trifles, which might have been turned to objects of public utility.

This museum is open every day, and occupies the whole of a very large house; the work-shop is in the yard. This celebrated genius is never idle: I found him, one day, dressing a small figure, with which he was extremely well pleased. It was the automaton of a young girl, with a nosegay in her hand; she was intended to walk up

and down an artificial flower garden. She appears delighted with her nosegay, which she raises to her face; and while inhaling the fragrance from the flowers, her bosom heaves, and her eyes move expressively. She afterwards removes the nosegays with a careless air.

The motion of this figure is admirably well contrived; none of that stiffness which usually attaches to inanimate objects; but an easy, gentle, and graceful motion, marks its progress.

He has invented a very ingenious watch, which goes well without wheels, springs, or weights. The world is also indebted to him for an excellent balance; an air-pump, to draw off corrupted air in ship's holds, or in hospitals; and many musical instruments, some of which are exquisitely beautiful.

But his inventive powers are usually applied to works of fancy. He has contrived chairs, beds, tables, swings, &c. upon a peculiar and very useful construction. The chair for the use of persons afflicted with the gout, unites all imaginable conveniences. A gouty poet has warmly panegyricized its peculiar comforts. His tea-table is no less famous. The person making the tea, has only to stamp with her foot; the empty cups are filled, and placed in any direction most convenient. His bed is equally admired; it may be transformed, at pleasure, into a canopy-bed, or a sofa, with a reading-desk.

But I should fill a volume if I were to dwell upon the various efforts of successful ingenuity which have been produced by this extraordinary character. I shall however notice one or two other curiosities which engage the attention of very large parties, who

assemble at his house on a winter's evening.

A mechanical garden, with ladies and gentlemen in carriages and on horseback; ponds filled with golden fish; artificial fountains composed of jewels; all in perpetual motion. The Circus of Love; representing an expanse of water; Fortune sits in the middle, on a wheel, perpetually turning under her. Venus seated in a shell, drawn by two flying doves, a fisherman rows backwards and forwards in his boat; while Love, with his bow bent, skims along the surface of the stream, and shoots his arrow at a flaming heart; or, by command, at any lady in company. The Temple of Flora; small, but very ingenious; it consists in fine cascades, composed of jewels, well arranged, and in constant motion.

Among the larger pieces of ma-

chinery, is one which you ascend by a flight of steps; it is connected with an immense musical instrument, which performs a concert of various instruments. The machine in which you stand, turns round with the music, as do several horses, which are usually mounted, and gallop away in different parts of the room.

An additional charm attaches to the museum, which is, the certainty of meeting with good company. This proceeds from the price of admission, three times higher than that of any other. On a long winter's evening, in particular, it is much frequented, and makes a cheerful and variegated lounge. The swings are in full play; the girls all laughing; the horses galloping; the music playing; every body and every thing in motion. Nothing can be more pleasant than this rational amusement.

Having said so much of Mr. Merlin,

I cannot conclude without stating, that he never takes out a patent for any of his inventions, but leaves them open to the inspection of the mechanical world, who are permitted to take models of them, for the benefit of the public at large; indeed his chairs, tables, and beds, are at every cabinet-maker's.

When I last saw him, he told me he was engaged in devising improvements on the phantasmagoria; and proposed to introduce mechanical figures, instead of pasteboard puppets—an improvement which must have produced an admirable effect.

The phantasmagoria in London is not to be compared with that of professor Robertson at Paris. The best of them belongs to a German in the Strand, who also exhibits slight of hand. This legerdemain gentleman calls himself the baron de Philipsthäl;

but whether his ancestors ever had a patent of nobility, is a secret I have not been able to come at. One thing is certain, he must impress the English with a very unfavourable idea of German nobility; for his appearance and manners are exactly those of a village schoolmaster.

A very curious exhibition has been opened in Bond-street, by two Germans, *Dresch* and *Stephanie*, of Augsburg, I believe, and is much visited by the curious. It consists of views of remarkable cities, palaces, or landscapes, executed in *basso relievo* of wrought ivory, with a delicacy and skill that astonishes every one. Among the most distinguished are, a *View of Rome*; another of *Windsor Castle*; a *Dutch Port*; and an admirable representation of the memorable engagement of the Glutton, of 50 guns, in

which Sir Henry Trollope beat off and put to flight a whole French squadron.

Miss Linwood's exhibition ranks high among the numerous efforts of ingenuity displayed in London: it is certainly the *chef d'œuvre* of needle-work, and is patronized by the ladies in particular, with enthusiasm.

Whatever I have seen of the kind in France, or Germany, bears no sort of comparison with it. Still, there is an ease and mellowness of expression in the fine touches of a masterly pencil not to be attained by any effort of the needle, however wonderful. All that it is possible to do, Miss Linwood has done; and far more than expectation could have supposed to be attainable.

The works of this young lady are as numerous as they are extraordinary; and though she is still in the vigour of life, they appear the labour of an

age. A large saloon, and two other rooms, are filled with them; and unless you approach very near, and observe them very accurately, you could never persuade yourself they were produced by a needle and thread. The lights and shades are so inimitably preserved, they have all the appearance and the softness of oil-paintings.

Mr. Wedgewood's is another lounge for the *beau monde*, on a wet morning. There are always a number of carriages at the door, and the shew-rooms are filled with ladies.

In beauty, and variety of form, the works of fancy exhibited at this manufactory are, perhaps, without equals; but the paintings are very inferior to those of Dresden and Berlin. I was therefore quite astonished to hear from thirty to fifty guineas demanded for a vase.

Panoramas are another kind of exhibition much frequented. They were invented by Mr. Barker, of London, and have since arrived at great perfection. The plan has been extended to views from history, and of foreign countries; so that the subjects are become as dignified as the execution is masterly.

The siege of Seringapatam, the siege of St. John d'Acre, and the battle of Alexandria, have been represented in this way; the latter in particular, met with uncommon patronage. The English consider the event of that battle as being peculiarly flattering to the British arms, being the only instance during the late war, when they were exclusively engaged with French troops. Hence national pride is gratified in a public representation, which records to posterity, that on the 21st of

March, 1801, the brave descendants of the heroes of *Cressy*, *Agincourt*, and *Poictiers*, fought and conquered double numbers of the enemy; all veterans, men inured to fatigue, and flushed with repeated successes; men led on by the most distinguished and experienced military commanders.

It was my good fortune to visit this painting in company with a friend who had been in the engagement, and made the whole campaign of Egypt. He assured me nothing could more faithfully exhibit the position of Alexandria, and the surrounding country, than this highly finished painting.

I afterwards saw another style of panorama, highly executed. It represented, in the most natural colouring, the progress of the dreadful earthquake at Lisbon: the various scenes were very happily grouped, and the

harmony of the whole preserved in a correct and masterly manner.

The port of Constantinople, with a view of Pera and Galatha, painted by Mr. Barker, was an excellent specimen of panoramic art. This painting was universally adjudged to be the best in London; and, I may venture to say, that the artist has, in this instance, surpassed himself. It affords a striking proof that he must have been peculiarly susceptible of every individual charm with which bountiful nature adorns a favoured climate: the sky, the water, and the horizon, appeal to the hearts of all who are admirers of natural beauty, and receive the applause they deservedly claim.

The auction-rooms of Mr. Phillips in New Bond-street, and Mr. Christie in Pall-mall, are daily crowded by personages of the first rank; but the latter

maintains a decided superiority over every competitor, on account of his extraordinary oratorical talents.

His room is lighted from the top, and is very large and lofty. The articles for sale are distributed about, in situations most advantageous to their general display; and, at the extremity, is placed the pulpit of Mr. Christie.

I attended when the famous Pigot diamond was to be disposed of by this celebrated orator, and his rooms were so well and fashionably crowded, that I had difficulty to find a place.

He opened the business of the day by a lively, pleasant, witty exordium, in which he traced the history of the diamond, from its original discovery to the present day, when the fall of the hammer was to decide its future fate. The adventures of this jewel were certainly not devoid of entertainment: it had travelled a great

way, and was intended to shed its lustre on the British crown; it had been an object of much parliamentary debate. These and other incidents were combined by this flowery orator, with a degree of pleasantry and humour which could scarcely have been exceeded. Nor did he forget to compliment the English ladies, whose superior charms robbed jewels of their value, and whose simplicity of attire disdained the aid of foreign ornament.

This speech was several times interrupted by the plaudits of the company; by the ladies in particular, with whom, as may be conceived, he is a great favourite. But notwithstanding all this eloquence, the diamond was sold for only 9600*l.* to a jeweller in New Bond-street; a sum much below its intrinsic value.

The next lot was an estate, which he

sold for 75,000*l*. On this occasion Mr. Christie was equally persuasive; but in a different style of eloquence. His manner was dignified; his tone impressive; he dwelt with energy on the pride and privileges of a large domain; its hereditary rights, handing down an honourable name with splendour to posterity: then he marked its economical resources, and concluded by describing it as a paradise.

I confess nothing I had hitherto met with gave me so much surprise as the scene of this day: it appeared so singular, that the dull, tedious process of a sale, should be changed into a lively comedy; and that the auctioneer should thus so freely be applauded by persons of the first rank in the kingdom. I cannot, however, omit to notice an exuberance of fancy in Mr. Christie,

which lowered his reputation and cost him dearly.

An estate of small value was to be disposed of, and the eloquent and zealous auctioneer, with a true poetic licence, descanted upon the tasteful arrangement of the grounds, and the beauty of the prospects. Seduced by a flowing imagination, he gave a very picturesque description of a hanging wood at the back of the house, admirably calculated to screen it from the overpowering heats of summer.

The English are passionately fond of hanging woods; and a gentleman accidentally present bought the estate, without any other recommendation, or having the least knowledge of it.

The reader will judge his astonishment when he learns that this highly valued wood turned out to be a gallows;

on which the remains of a malefactor were still hanging.

The gentleman, indignant at the misrepresentation, commenced á suit, in which Mr. Christie was obliged to refund and pay the costs of suit.

CHAP. V.

The Women of the Town—Their amazing Numbers—
Their Increase — The Diminution of that Class in
Paris—Why—A distinct Society in the Palais Royal
The Manners of those in Paris—The Manners of those
in London — Streets new-named — The Occasion—
Origin and Progress of Parisian and London Ladies of
Pleasure—Their different Classes—The Impudence
of one, contrasted with the apparent Modesty of the
other—How affected by the Police—The Magdalen
Hospital.

THE class of unhappy women who
earn a miserable subsistence by the
traffic of their persons, contribute in
no small degree to increase the crowds
in the public streets. Some years ago
their numbers were estimated at fifty
thousand; but I have heard a gentle-
man well acquainted with the police
of the metropolis, of which he is a
member, assert, that they had increas-

ed to seventy thousand. Lest this should appear an exaggerated statement, I shall quote another, which contends, that one eighth part of the females one meets in the public streets are women of the town. This accumulation of numbers presents a striking contrast to the diminution in Paris. Previous to the revolution they were computed at twenty thousand; and at present scarcely at eight thousand.

It may be asked, whence this extraordinary difference arises; or, whether the sentimental Parisian is become a convert to the Platonic system? On the contrary; licentiousness is more prevalent in Paris than ever: but the secret is, the married women in France have spoiled the trade. *Cicisbeos*, as I have before observed, are all the ton at Paris; so that a man of any address has little difficulty in recommending himself to an appointment of that

kind, in the family of some one or other of his acquaintances.

Domestic happiness, unalterable attachment, inviolable faith, ardent love, are all *obsoletes* in their fashionable language; they are terms not even to be found in a modern French novel.

To vary enjoyment, to drown the senses in a whirlpool of dissipation, to heap luxury on luxury, is the pastime of a Parisian *virtuoso*; forgetful that the lamp of sensuality will in time go out, and the enervated frame moulder to premature decay.

But such is the versatility of a Frenchman's talents, he possesses a *panacea* for every wound. Having outlived enjoyment himself, he tutors the unformed mind in the science of gallantry, leads his pupil to an assignation, and enjoys under the window the recollection of his own conquests.

Having accounted for the decrease

on one part, it will be easy to reconcile the augmentation on the other, by stating a simple truth :—that unblemished virtue in the women, and an honourable fidelity in the men, are sentiments so religiously observed by all classes in London, that a foreigner, accustomed to the dissolute manners of other countries, would believe he saw the golden age renewed in the virtues of domestic life and matrimonial union in England.

It will not be supposed that I am laying down maxims without exceptions; I speak of the prevalent habits in which London is decidedly superior to the other capitals of Europe.

Nor are the character and manners of the abandoned women less remarkable for their contrast to each other. The Parisians (excepting kept women), live under the tyranny of an old duenna, who provides them with board and lodging, cloaths, ornaments, and every

other essential for their profession; and these expences are liquidated by a certain proportion, deducted from their current receipts. Nothing can be conceived more diabolical than the conduct of these old mercenary bel-dams to the noviciates of their order; but the poor girls have no hope of escape from this life of complicated misery, unless accident raises them to the rank of kept-women. None others live alone, except a still lower class of unhappy wretches, who have been turned out of these infamous receptacles, as no longer fit for service; or such as, through despair, have flown from the miseries they were no longer able to bear.

But there is a distinct class of *filles de joye*, who live in the *Palais Royal*. Their conduct is regulated by bye-laws of their own, observed more ri-

gorously than the statutes of many an order of knighthood.

They live together in pairs ; and none can be admitted, but through the introduction of a resident member. No strange female ever mixes with this self-constituted order ; any attempt of the kind would be severely punished. The elder of the two girls associated in partnership, superintends the domestic affairs, and is the champion of her friend in settling all points of honour.

To explain this, it will be necessary to state, that, upon all matters of dispute, or intricacy, the offended party sends a challenge ; and the opponent is sure to be expelled who fails to attend this appeal to arms.

On these occasions the combatants appear, attended by their seconds, in the apartments of one of them, and with the door key, which they wield

with the skill of a fencing-master, decide their quarrel.

In London, the women of the town seldom cultivate habits of intimacy with each-other; but there are houses, nevertheless, of different descriptions, where a number of them live under the tutelage of experienced matrons, by whom, however, they are treated with great urbanity; for the spirit of an Englishwoman would induce her to contend with the greatest distress, imaginable, rather than submit to a temporary slavery of any description. In all other situations, they consider each other as rivals; and even in the box-lobbies, where they swarm in hundreds, you seldom see any mark of intimacy pass between them: but in this solitary, friendless sort of way, they are scattered all over the metropolis, subject to no law but their own ca-

price, no regulation but their sovereign will.

No part of the town is free from the intrusion of these ladies; but at the west end there are whole streets, nay parishes, to which they maintain an exclusive right, or privilege, of residence. The neighbourhoods of Covent-Garden and Leicester-square are particularly ill-famed; but it is as singular as true, that the most noted bagnios and gaming-houses are almost next door to St. James's Palace.

The domestic virtues of the court appear with additional lustre from the mass of iniquity, which, without shame, dares to rear its hideous form within the royal precinct.

When these unfortunate beings begin to besiege a neighbourhood, all the respectable families instantly leave it; and when they emigrate from them, it becomes necessary to give new names

to the streets before the landlords can procure respectable tenants.

For instance, Upper Newman-street was formerly thus infested ; but when the enemy vacated, it was called Norfolk-street, and is now properly inhabited.

The *filles de joye* in Paris are seldom either accomplished or handsome ; but possess a certain air and *tournure* which recommend them to the other sex. They dress well ; their deportment is graceful ; their manners tinged with an agreeable vivacity and a spark of coquetry, that make them very fascinating. The more solid acquirements, however, are unknown to these pretty puppets ; usually peasant girls, who, when deserted, leave the arms of their original seducers, for the protection of a duenna in the capital. Whatever of sensibility nature might have given them, is not only blunted,

but eradicated by the degrading system they are afterwards obliged to pursue for a precarious livelihood.

An Englishwoman, on the contrary, never enters herself on the list of *avowed* gallantry, without charms to captivate, and talents to secure her lover. It is usual to see the most lovely woman imaginable thus degraded; whose birth was hailed with rapture, and whose growing years were watched with all the zeal of parental affection. But, in England, *one* false step is never pardoned: the victim of *one* unguarded moment finds no friendly bosom to receive the tears of penitence and contrition.

Her parents, her relations, the dear companions of her youth, alike forsake her;—and with a heart torn by remorse, a soul aspiring to the abstinence of a future spotless life to efface *one* transient blot, she is driven to the preci-

pice, followed by scorn and unfeeling persecution.

The alternative is simple: with some, despair is decisive; with others, it hesitates; and a fear to plunge into ONE dreadful crime, often exposes them to commit many.

In the metropolis, however, there are many gradations of infamy; depending, in a great measure, on the bias of early habits, and the good or bad effects of the education they may have received.

Many a youthful mind has been corrupted by the pernicious examples too prevalent at boarding-school; where, for want of proper attention, books are introduced among the girls, whose baneful tendency is calculated to corrupt the best-disposed; and it is notorious, that a *certain* description of prints are engraved for the *use of schools*.

When a girl is so fortunate as to escape this sort of contamination, if she possesses a warm imagination, an almost equal danger stares her in the face; the danger which results from novel-reading, certainly the most destructive amusement a youthful mind can encounter.

There are innumerable instances among the daughters of tradespeople, both in town and country, who, unable to inspire their parents with those delusive prospects, which their own heated fancies have laid down as the certain consequence of their superlative charms, run away from home to realize the golden dream, and fall immediate victims to their own vanity and weakness. Then succeeds progressive infamy: soon lost to all sense of delicacy, they become mere sensualists; they give a free rein to their impetuous passions; fly from dissipation to

dissipation, till the last spark of reflection is lost in the whirlpool, and they retain only the form of human beings.

There are others whose superior charms, together with an artfully assumed correctness of manners, attach the regards of men of rank and fortune; who enable them to vie in the splendour of their establishments with the first peeress of the land: but this happiness, if it may be so termed, is usually short-lived. The English are the most faithful lovers in the world, when attached by the fascinating claims of virtuous love; but they are as fickle in the pursuit of sensual pleasures. It therefore seldom happens, that any of these ladies maintain their splendour long; fashion, for a time, will hand them from one gay young fellow to another, but they soon sink into obscurity.

When this happens, such as have a remnant left of their former prosperity, will often retire to a remote corner of the kingdom ; pass for the widows of officers, reduced to live on their pension ; and by maintaining a correct mode of living, their persons and artful manners frequently lead to the addresses of a country squire, when they are made honest women, and spend the remainder of their days respectably.

But it more frequently turns out, that these thoughtless women, who madly imagine their influence is to be everlasting, and their splendour unlimited, fall all at once from the intoxicating height to which the caprice of their lovers may have raised them ; and, on casting up accounts, instead of a small independence, find themselves considerably involved in debt. Obligated to fly from their credi-

tors, they take refuge in some distant corner; but the proud remembrance of what they have been always keeps them, whatever misery they may experience, from herding with the low class, whom they despise as much as virtue despises them.

In Paris, these women never appear in public places of high fashion; they content themselves with offering their charms for sale at a more humble market, in the Boulevards, where there are petty theatres. Indeed, they would not be permitted to mix with any higher circles. I was myself present at the *Theatre Français*, when two women of this description made their appearance; but they were immediately expelled by the legislative *parterre*.

In London they take boxes on the second and higher rows of all the theatres, except the Italian Opera; and

the lobbies they make their exclusive property. But a Parisian kept-woman, whose allowance permits her to make a dashing appearance, assumes a consequence suitable to her dress; and in the point of etiquette, will yield to none. If she meets a woman of rank in a situation where one must give way, she will scarcely, if at all, make the first step; whereas, a kept-woman in London, although her toilet were besieged by the most illustrious characters in the kingdom, always yields the precedence to women of character, thereby offering an honorary tribute to the dignity of virtue.

The Parisians, at the little theatres, throw their arms about the necks of their lovers, and are disgustingly importunate. The English, on the contrary, wear the *appearance* of modesty, though the *reality* is gone. The former stares boldly in the face of the man

she would secure; the latter, with a mild, downcast eye, maintains her conquest.

Such are the delineations of French, and English modesty.

From the incredible number of street-walkers who pass and repass, to the annoyance of the grave passenger, a person might be induced to suppose them tolerated by the police. The fact is, that prostitution is an irremediable evil, not without its attendant good: while, therefore, order and decorum are observed, the police never interfere. The watchmen, it is true, have orders to prevent their nocturnal rambles; but this privilege is only made use of to exact a shilling now and then from these miserable human beings.

There are, sometimes, very ludicrous scenes before the magistrates, when it happens that one or more of

these nymphs have charged the watch with an unwary passenger, and carried him before the justice in the morning.

Here the lady, with great fluency of language, pleads her own cause, to the very great entertainment of the bystanders, and the embarrassment of the justice, who has much difficulty to preserve his gravity during this eloquent harangue. It generally concludes with discharging the accused, and an admonitory lesson to the accuser.

But the dreadful reflection follows, now the picture is drawn—What becomes of these poor wretches when they have "*strutted their hour*" on the theatre of life; the prey of disease, the victims of remorse; no friendly hand to smooth the pillow of affliction; no soothing voice to cheer them on their awful journey?

To such as feel an interest in this

last appeal, it will be gratifying to learn, that the humanity of this great and good nation has provided an asylum, which receives and protects them in the extremes of wretchedness and despair.

The Magdalen Hospital has for its object the benevolent intention of restoring such as apply for its protection, either to their friends, if they will receive them; or to the world; whither they return, purified by repentance, and humbled to the voluntary fulfilment of the duties of menial situations in life.

This noble institution is situated in St. George's Fields, and consists of four communicating buildings, which surround a large grass plot: one of them is a chapel, much frequented, and at which public donations are expected from every visiter.

The fame of this asylum is very ex-

tensive; and it often happens, that there are more penitents seeking admission, than the house can accommodate. Its limited number, is, I believe, seventy. The new-comers have no sort of communication with others: they are classed, afterwards, according to the disposition they may manifest, or the extent of reform which has been produced in their minds. They live two and two together, in long galleries, where rooms for their accommodation are entirely separated from each other. Those on the lower floor of the house, are the most corrupt and untractable. They are employed, during their stay, in all kinds of female domestic employments, as well as other occupations; such as the manufacture of artificial flowers, lace, dolls, millinery, mantua-making, &c. and in these avocations, the choice of the pupil is consulted.

They are treated with a degree of delicacy and attention, that cannot fail to strengthen the good disposition they may have of returning to the paths of virtue. Solitude is the only punishment they suffer: no access to them is permitted; nor are the goods manufactured by them, sold at the house. All these precautions tend to give them a new existence, and they return to the world new beings.

During their residence in the hospital, the directors take the greatest pains to discover their relatives and friends, and humanely endeavour to reconcile them to each other, when the reform of the unhappy girl sanctions them in the laudable pursuit.

The directors are all persons of eminence, and their established character confers great dignity on the institution, and facilitates all its objects.

When an inmate has resided three

years in the house, and has established a good character, if no friends can be found to receive her, or if it be her own wish to live independent of them, the directors endeavour to procure her some respectable situation, where she may earn her bread; providing against intermediate necessity, by a present in money. At the expiration of a year, her conduct is inquired into; and when the report is favourable, she is encouraged in the paths of rectitude by another present.

On Sunday, during service, the Magdalens are seated in a choir of the chapel, concealed from the congregation by a green curtain. The hymns are adapted to the peculiarity of their situation, and sung by such of the girls as have fine voices. This, added to the solemnity of the service, and the pathetic lessons addressed to these poor penitents, by a celebrated preacher,

make this chapel the favourite resort of many families. It is impossible to witness the service without being much affected; and the contributions, on these occasions, considerably assist the establishment.

CHAP. VI.

The Police of the Metropolis—Mr. Colquhoun's Work ; its uncandid Reception—Public Convenience considered—Police of Health—Quacks ; their different Classes—Venders of Quack Medicines—The London Druggist—Adulterator of Wine—Thoughts on a preventive System of Police—Fire—The Monster—Gangs of Robbers—The Watchmen—Famous Speech of an Englishman.

TO govern so extensive a city as London, and to provide for the safety and convenience of a million of beings, without circumscribing the limits of their accustomed range, is a problem not to be solved without uniting the abilities of the experienced statesman, the disinterested patriot, and the independent citizen of the world, in the enquiry ; and if any nation can pro-

duce characters so gifted, England is certainly the distinguished spot. Still no one has hitherto undertaken the Herculean labour of introducing light and shade into the chaos of the London police: and it was with no small degree of surprise, that good Mr. John Bull (who inherits an opinion, that his own country is the centre of all that is good and great,) read Mr. Colquhoun's work on the Police of the Metropolis, which proves, indeed, that the metropolis has no police at all.

This book contains the candid, upright sentiments of a magistrate who has exposed himself to the probability of private censure, to produce a public good.

A work like this could not fail to provoke much contention: still, the facts adduced were incontrovertible; and what others could not contradict, they attributed to collateral motives.

“ He had magnified imaginary evils; he was a misanthrope !”

His singular proposals for a reformation, were ridiculed; and the worthy projector compared to a tile-maker, who never saw a fine flowery meadow, without beginning to calculate on the produce of a kiln, &c. advantageously situated.

However illiberal this sarcastic censure on a gentleman who has, for years, devoted his time to the discovery of all those shifts, artifices, connections, and hiding-places, to which the criminal resorts to escape detection; still it must be admitted, while he finds fault with the London police, that there are many passages in his valuable work, that glance at an introduction of the Parisian system of *espionage* into English politics. No wonder, therefore, if John Bull revolts at the idea of an infringement of his darling liberty;

and would rather suffer all other ills, than admit such an enemy to every blessing, public or private.

In making these remarks, I confine myself to the object of Mr. Colquhoun's work, the "*police of personal safety*," which is the only neglected branch of the whole, as "*personal convenience*" cannot be better provided for. The streets are well paved; the lamps burn throughout the night, and in many of the streets (Guildford-street, for example,) are provided with reflectors. Narrow streets have been widened, new handsome buildings have arisen on the site of old tottering houses, and all objects are carefully removed, which might have any tendency to offend the senses.

The public markets are well stocked, and held at proper and conveniently distant places; though the fish-market

at Billingsgate, the cattle-market at Smithfield, and the fruit and vegetable market at Covent-Garden, are more central in their position.

The streets exhibit a neatness and comfort not to be equalled any where except in Holland; and the foot-pavement is covered with broad flag-stones, which, with the steps before each door, are washed every day. One neighbour follows the regularity of another, and the system is acknowledged throughout the street, no one chusing to be excelled in cleanliness. The same attention is paid to the middle of the street; and such is the spirit of speculation, which suffers nothing to escape its grasp, that many parishes among the new buildings, receive an annual income from the sale of the street-mud, which is taken away and converted into manure.

Every part of the town is provided

with subterraneous canals, which carry off all uncleanness; and immense water-works, from the Thames and New River, supply the want of every house. Wooden pipes run under all the streets, with occasional plugs, the exact position of which is noted on the wall; so that, in the event of fire, the engine-workers know where to get water.

The markets are extremely well regulated; and considering the consumption in every article of food, it is astonishing to see the variety which constantly abounds in them. There is no fixed assize to regulate the price in the markets; but the number of sellers, of all descriptions, prevent either monopoly or extortion.

The hospitals, and every kind of benevolent institution in London, stand unrivalled for number and excellence. In a subsequent volume I purpose to treat

at large on this subject; but while the liberal spirit of the nation is thus employed in concerting measures for the alleviation of misery in all its forms, why not suggest a hope, that these public institutions may be rendered less necessary by a reform in the condition of the poor?

With the exception of those grand establishments which provide for the health of the poor, there is no vestige of a police to guard that of the inhabitants in general. It is well known, that physicians of skill and experience abound in this vast metropolis; but it is equally known, that the middling class of society are not rich enough to purchase their advice in the hour of need, nor are they poor enough to retreat to a public hospital.

A physician is intitled to a guinea for every visit; a price by no means exorbitant, when it is considered that

he must keep a carriage to visit his patients. Thus it happens, that people excluded either way from assistance, have recourse to some universal medicine, or take no medicine at all: either extreme should be carefully avoided.

But an inexperienced person has some difficulty to distinguish a regular-bred physician from a quack. This may appear a singular assertion, because it appears the most simple thing possible to recognise a mountebank; who by long advertisements, collections of certificates for cures never performed, and other pompous artifices, seeks to establish the reputation of some baneful nostrum. Such characters develop themselves. There are, however, a set of quacks who play a surer game: they intrude themselves into the notice of the world, by acts of benevolence and philanthropy: taking care, however, not to look for

misery in a hovel; but under the head of CHARITY, to court popularity, to appear subscribers at all public institutions, to set subscriptions on foot themselves, to insert puffs in the papers, recording some extraordinary relief afforded to some distressed family, and by other tricks of this nature, to impose on the easy credulity of the English; and having thus obtained a reputation, to glide, as it were, into the list of physicians, without inquiry; and all at once become self-dubbed M. D.'s, authorised to kill *secundum artem*.

Surely the police have a right to interfere in the prevention of this species of quackery: liberty would not, could not, be infringed by the interruption of "*poisoners*" in their trade. It is the same in Paris; though perhaps not to so alarming or so impudent an height.

There are in London three distinct classes of these gentlemen: First, the inventor of universal and specific medicines. Secondly, the urine-doctors. Thirdly, the venders of these drugs. I shall attempt to describe some of the chief among these licensed medical charlatans.

One Doctor Matthews is so good as to assure the public, that he has, during his successful practice, radically cured upwards of eighty thousand persons by his most *wonderful* Elixir. Others, in cases which require secrecy and honour, boldly tell you, their pills will not only cure, but prevent. All these, however, are children in intrigue, compared with another celebrated vender of nostrums, (M. D. in the college of Aberdeen,) formerly valet-de-chambre to M. ———, an itinerant French quack.

Since the days of the great Dr. Rock,

no mountebank has ever laboured with equal success, or equal impudence. Hanover, I believe, claims the honour of his birth; and this bastard son of Esculapius, has acquired a no less annual income than eight thousand guineas by the sale of his Botanical Syrup and Nervous Cordial. His daily advertisements in the newspapers, cost him two thousand guineas a year. He sports one of the *finest* equipages in town; and his entertainments are sumptuous in the extreme. He goes abroad regularly every year, that he may have an opportunity of announcing his return, and assuring the public, that the reputation of his syrup has been increased by the most honourable testimonies of its efficacy from several foreign medical societies.

In the summer of 1802, he had the *modesty* to tell the public, that the celebrated chemist Fourcroy had, dur-

ing his residence at Paris, publicly acknowledged the universal virtues of his syrup, and granted him a certificate to that effect. Nor does this active impostor confine his drugs to Europe; Asia and America are equally distinguished: indeed, I have been assured by an officer lately arrived from the East Indies, that his name is as well known in Calcutta as in England.

I shall give the following anecdote, of which I entertain no doubt, by way of proving that he leaves no artifice unemployed, for the still farther establishment of his fame and fortune.

A very large party was assembled to partake a magnificent entertainment at the doctor's house: a servant entered, and whispered something in his master's ear.—“How often have I told you,” said the doctor, angrily, “that I will not be interrupted at

table? Desire the good people to be gone."

In a short time the servant returned, and with an embarrassed air, said, "Sir, we are not able to prevent them from coming to you." At this moment the folding-doors flew open, and presented a poor family, who, overcome with respectful gratitude, came to express the fulness of their hearts.

"Be not offended, noble, generous
"Sir! we would not interrupt you—
"we only wish to offer you our heart-
"felt thanks for the benefits we have
"reaped from your all-healing balsam.
"Our feelings, Sir, let them supply
"the want of words—Your botani-
"cal syrup——great Doctor!——your
"nervous cordial——Oh! you have
"saved us all——my wife!——my lit-
"tle-ones!"——bursting into tears.

The doctor, *much disconcerted*, threw some money to the poor people, and

gave the most positive orders, that he would not be so interrupted another time; then turning to his guests, the doctor *modestly* told them, that he should never know a moment's peace, if every one indebted to him for life were thus gratefully importunate.

This farce was acted before an assembly of respectable characters.

The worm-doctors, although their exertions are usually confined to the lower class of people, seldom content themselves with such limited practice; but when an opportunity offers, pretend radically to cure the most inveterate diseases. They keep large shops, and fill their windows with immense worms, which they pretend they have extracted from various patients. A crowd of curious people are always gaping with their mouths wide open, at these almost immeasurable insects.

Of the many pretenders in this way,

the most noted is Dr. Gardiner, of Long-Acre: the front of his house is completely covered with hand-bills of his astonishing cures; and he refers to a maw-worm in his window, *seventy-four* feet long, as a proof of his abilities. On two pyramidical boards it is announced, that Dr. Gardiner radically cures the rheumatism and gout, subjecting himself to the penalty of 600*l.* in case of failure.

There are large and handsome shops for the sale of quack-medicines of every description; and it sometimes happens that the proprietors increase the variety by nostrums of their own.

The most celebrated of these shops are in Oxford-street, Piccadilly, the Strand, Holborn; but almost every public street has one or more of them. These shops make a great shew: the windows are filled in every pane with transparent papers of different colours,

on which are written the names and uses of the various nostrums to be had there. At night they are extremely well lighted, and have an imposing appearance. This is the more politic, as many who are attached to the use of quack medicines, prefer the privacy of the evening, to avoid the compliments of their friends on their taste.

The druggists are another evil which calls aloud for reform. Their shops are also distinguished by glare and shew; being fitted up with large crystal bottles, variously formed, and filled with green, blue, pink, yellow fluids: behind these strong lights are placed, which thrōw out a variegated and beautiful lustre. The proprietors, however, of these gaudy shews, are too frequently mere smatterers in medicine; and I have been assured, that the apothecaries and druggists of the metro-

polis are worse provided; and less to be relied on, *generally*, than those of respectable country towns.

This confusion of ignorant professors among the more enlightened and chemical geniuses of the profession, is the evil to be complained of, and certainly deserves the attention of the police. It is true the stock of a druggist's shop is, at all times, like that of a wine-merchant, inspected by proper officers; but the day of such examination being previously known to the parties, no ill arises to them from this superficial inquiry.

To reduce this system to order and respectability, all examination should be sudden, and when least expected. A magistrate should attend, with other officers, and the names and description of all offenders published in the newspapers: but as this is not the case, impositions of every kind are practised,

to the injury of the constitutions and pockets of the inhabitants.

Wines are so publicly and avowedly adulterated, that I am at a loss in what shape to consider the inattention of the police, to an object so detrimental to the health of mankind.

A wine-merchant (WILSON, if I am not mistaken) practised this art with so little delicacy, that the police were compelled to notice his imposition, and prosecuted him accordingly, for having adulterated his PORT WINE; but the ingenious delinquent, with unheard-of impudence, proved the futility of the charge, by demonstrating clearly to the court, that not one drop of port wine was contained in the mixtures sold by him under *that* name, and thereby escaped punishment; it being the law of England to abide by the literal interpretation of the charge exhibited against any one, and to acquit him in

case of error, whatever the nature of the crime may be.

The *preventive* duty of the police, is another branch altogether neglected by them. There is scarcely a public shew, or festival, celebrated in London, without some tragic scene or scenes to cloud the joys of the day.

At the proclamation of the peace, according to usual custom, slight scaffoldings were erected for the accommodation of the curious, in those streets where the procession was to pass; and one of them, near the Mansion-house, very much crowded, fell down, by which accident several persons were dangerously hurt. I could record many instances of the same kind; yet the police pay no regard to this evil, which a simple inspection of such temporary erections would altogether remove.

At the theatres, and in all situations

where people are collected together in great numbers, you see no sort of effort made by the police to preserve order or prevent accidents. People are sometimes killed in these excessive crowds, or otherwise badly hurt; at the play-house-doors in particular.

Independent of this, hundreds of carriages collected in one little spot, and equally desirous to reach the door, are driven against each other with violence, confusion, and disaster.

At a subscription-ball given in honour of the peace, nineteen gentlemen's carriages were dashed to pieces; and though this is common, it is not deemed of sufficient consequence to provoke the interposition of the police.

At fires, which are frequent, confusion is generally so prevalent as to defeat exertion. The engines are excellent and numerous: but that is not enough; order should be preserved;

instead of which, the mob mixes with the fire-men, and, to facilitate plunder, increase the confusion of the scene. On these occasions, much of the property supposed to be saved by the sufferers, has been delivered into the custody of common thieves, and is never heard of afterwards.

It is a well-known fact, that a MONSTER, not many years ago, paraded the streets in open day, annoying and even wounding persons as they passed, wholly unknown to him; the women were in particular the favourite objects of his brutality. He bit their cheeks, or plunged a small poniard into their sides; and this he continued to do for an unpardonable length of time, unpunished.

In the winter of 1802, one lady was shot with an air-gun; another stabbed with a dagger: children were stolen from their parents by a gang of infan-

mous women ; and so prolific was this year of almost unheard-of crimes, scarcely a day passed without new instances of this latter, most infamous of all human depravity.

If crimes like these are perpetrated in the face of open day, who shall wonder at the boldness of the midnight robber? It is certain that I never experienced any personal inconvenience from them, although I have travelled by night, and been in the streets at very late hours ; but I have often heard the screams of others : and a German of my acquaintance was hustled and plundered the very first evening after his arrival.

Two thousand invalid, ill-paid, drunken watchmen, are the guardians, by night, of the public safety : such a miserable crew, even with the best dispositions, are unequal to the protection of the metropolis.

Thieves here associate in large and desperate gangs : they have been known to possess warehouses to store their booty, and to have armed detachments in different quarters of the town, to come to their rescue in case of detection. They have spies every where, and in every shape, on the reconnoitre after booty ; stables full of horses to fly on an emergency ; and so confident are these desperadoes in their own strength, that they not only act defensively against the peace-officers, but also denounce them. These are the groundwork of Mr. Colquhoun's spirited complaints against the police, whom he has endeavoured to *provoke* to a sense of their duty.

The London watchmen, who are a positive satire on the police, are frequently the accomplices of these midnight depredators. Their pay is very small, and the temptation to guilt too

alluring to be resisted. Without such aid it would be impossible to account for the burglaries and robberies of all descriptions, which are quietly performed during the night. I am acquainted with a lady whose house was only ten paces from the watch-box, yet it was completely pillaged in one night.

To remove this increasing evil, all these old watchmen should be dismissed, and replaced by well-armed vigorous young men; to be assisted by a patrol on horseback. But this, I fear, is a measure more to be wished for than expected from the drowsy magistracy, who, so far from taking proper hints from Mr. Colquhoun's salutary advice, screen themselves under fulsome compliments, farcically addressed to their zeal, vigilance, and patriotism.

An Englishman has confidently as-

sured his countrymen, that it is but common justice to applaud the good order prevalent in London; the rarity of gross excesses, and the comparatively small number of criminal cases recorded in the courts of justice.

In any other country this would be translated into the severity of satire. Every man's experience contradicts it; yet, in England, any one disposed to wing his flight to the regions of hyperbole, may trample on historical facts, without any fear of exposure, when public institutions are the objects flattered.

CHAP. VII.

Hume on the English National Character — Objections to it—English Schools—Infancy—French and English Tutors — Private Education of Boys considered — Schools described—Their negative Merits—Relative Situation of the Master and the Scholar—The Holidays—Relative Situation of the Parent and the Child — French Innovations on English Education —English Beaux—Different Descriptions of Boys' Schools—Certain Pedagogues—Public and Private Schools—The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Girls' Boarding-Schools—Their Disadvantages—Want of Public Schools.

IT has been remarked by Hume, in speaking of national character, that the English have less of this distinction than the inhabitants of any other country.

Perhaps the want of such national character is the character itself! At all events, originality is more conspicuous in England than elsewhere, be-

cause it is unconfined, and expands freely in the wide regions of liberty.

There are, independently, peculiarities of a nature so deep rooted, as to become a part even of the man; and those, not the result of fashion or caprice, but inherent qualities, which never forsake him.

A German traveller borrows the various manners of the various climes he visits: he assumes the levity of the Frenchman, the gravity of the Englishman, the *hauteur* of the Spaniard: whereas John Bull is John Bull, wherever he goes; he is inflexible in maintaining his national character, which he contemplates with enthusiasm.

On the banks of the *Ganges*, the *Neva*, and the *Tagus*, the SPIRIT of the Englishman still preserves its inherent qualities, although it may have passed through several generations. The causes of this prevailing uniformity of cha-

racter among individuals, as various in disposition as they are in number, must be looked for in that system of education which is universal throughout this kingdom.

The children of England and France are certainly the finest of any country; and it is not a little singular, in an atmosphere so unhealthy as that of Paris, to see lusty blooming boys, appearing like so many Cupids at the *ruelle* of a modern Venus. The children of both countries have a striking resemblance to each other, both in persons and the exemplary care with which they are brought up. Their dress is plain, light, tasty; and though the system by which those of each country is raised, scarcely differs in its effects, it does in its manner. In Paris, the mother alone superintends this duty; in England, it is equally divided between both parents: in consequence

of which, an earlier and more permanent affection exists between father and son.

When six years old, children, boys or girls, are sent to school, although this hitherto prevailing custom has lately been infringed upon by several opulent families, who have chosen to educate their children under private masters at home. This may be advantageous to the girls, but not to the boys, who are in general placed under the hands of emigrant abbés; it being a province now rarely sought by Englishmen: and a superficial knowledge of the classics, added to their natural social qualities, makes up the merit of the man. In Germany a tutor is required to be a movable encyclopædia: and it must be said in favour of the public schools in England, that their professors are men of distinguished talents in ancient literature.

Private education is, therefore, an injury to the boy; a man of real abilities will seldom submit to the drudgery of private tuition.

When an Englishman devotes himself to study, he does so with enthusiasm; he employs his whole life in pursuit of the sciences. These zealous votaries of learning are less numerous than formerly; but it is to *their* attainments that England is indebted for her literary fame.

Whoever now wishes to launch into the stream of knowledge, soon perceives himself so encompassed with difficulties, that most are deterred from the pursuit, and quietly leave college, satisfied that they know enough of the classics to translate the "*Falernian wine*" of the ancients, by the "*port wine*" of the moderns.

To return to private tutors. Let us even admit that the abbé may possess

some talents? but where shall we look for the lessons of morality which his pupil ought to draw from his instructor?

An Englishman would be his more natural preceptor. The Frenchman seldom attains a perfect knowledge of the English language or manners: he first becomes ridiculous in the eyes of his pupil; and that sentiment is soon followed by contempt. On the other hand, the English master, though kind in his manners, and good in his disposition to his scholars, considers it beneath the dignity of his post in a public school, to consult the dawning genius of his several pupils, to model their unformed minds while yet susceptible of the best impressions, to direct the aspirations of the soul, and mingle virtue with instruction. He struts the monarch of the school: his cold gravity, and unshaken firmness,

naturally unfit him for the station. He is well calculated to maintain discipline among an hundred wild boys, while the liberality of his disposition will always protect them from unnecessary infringements on their liberty.

Taken from this seminary in the heyday of youth, when nature begins its turbulent operations on the passions, instead of college, as formerly, these youth are sent abroad, with travelling tutors. Here they know no restraint but their own wishes: some become profligates and spendthrifts, cull the bad examples of foreign countries, and return to their own unimproved in their understanding, injured in their health, ruined in their morals. Others become early misanthropes; others retain their natural virtues unimpaired; but few are restored to their friends improved by the tour. They know little of foreign countries; no-

thing of their own. They enter into a new world, where they make acquaintance, but pass through life without knowing the blessings of a bosom friend. They possess a certain polish, which makes them look with contempt on the stiff manners of their friends or relations just come from college, and arrogate a presumptuous degree of consequence from the comparison.

But while I thus contend in favour of public education, let it not be understood that I acknowledge the sufficiency, either of public schools or the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

As far as relates to the mode of instruction, nothing can be better devised; still they are two hundred years behind the other colleges of Europe in the researches of science. Their merits are rather negative than positive. If they do not give all the luxuriance

to the young plant of which its nature is susceptible, they take care to preserve the root. They are not, like many German seminaries, pernicious hot-houses, which force the fruit into premature perfection, and thereby withdraw the vigour from the body of the tree.

The relative situations of the master and the scholar are the same in all schools: obedience on the part of the boys; absolute command on that of the head master, who may make laws as rigid as those issued by Draco, and they will be complied with. But in the administration of those laws let him beware of injustice: on such occasions, a whole school, with *one* mind, will rebel against his authority.

The teachers may superintend, but they never interfere with the concerns of the boys out of school. They make

their own parties, arrange their own games, and adjust their own quarrels.

At some schools the boys form themselves into a republic; at others they choose some distinguished genius for their king; at others many parties are formed, each contending for superiority.

These various forms of government are all supported by one fundamental law—honour! and so carefully is their reliance upon the words and actions of each other pursued in all its purity, that a lying, dissembling, or mischief-making boy is shunned by all his school-fellows, and persecuted with such severity as compels him to leave the school: nor is it safe for a teacher to protect a boy so spurned. Thus the love of honesty, sincerity, and truth, become one of the earliest habits imbibed by the youthful mind.

And it is on these noble and fundamental principles, that the English national character raises the fabric of its darling independence.

The bonds of intimacy also, are formed in public schools, and so tenaciously preserved, that such an attachment is sacred during the lives of the parties; and when all the romantic visions of youth have flitted past, like unsubstantial vapours, the Englishman retains the partial remembrance of all his juvenile attachments; while the enmities, intrigues, quarrels, &c. which form the leading features of a German school, are mere propensities unknown to the English orchard-robber.

One particular, unusual on the continent, deserves notice here: it is the peculiar principle of an English school-master never to admit his scholars to the dignity of manhood. Misconduct in a head boy at Eton and other public

schools, is punished with the rod, although he is of years and capacity to become a commoner at the university.

No school of celebrity receives day-scholars. The boys must be residents, subject to the recreations of Christmas and Whitsuntide holidays; and some are removed long journeys from their homes. I know a family in Yorkshire who send their son to Harrow on the Hill. He always visits his parents at the holiday times; so that in the course of the year he makes a tour of seven hundred and thirty-two miles.

In most countries parents would tremble to be so separated from their children; but it is a ruling principle in England to familiarize boys to difficulties, to give them early notions of experience; by which means the pupil becomes accustomed to presence of mind in difficulties, boldness in enterprise, and firmness in adversity.

Boys, for instance, intended for the navy, are previously sent on long and perilous voyages; so that many of these young heroes have traversed the four quarters of the globe, at an age when German boys are scarce trusted to their own guidance for an evening's ramble.

Captain Collnett, the companion of captain Cook, went to Botany-Bay, in 1803, in the *Glatton*, of 54 guns; he took out with him thirty-six fine boys, all of good family. He shewed them to me on my taking leave of him on board, and they all seemed delighted with the dangerous voyage they were about to encounter.

The holidays form a sort of family jubilee: the parents exert themselves to make their children feel happier with them than elsewhere. They treat them as friends; and the cordial affability of the parent is returned by the unreserved confidence of the boy, who

always approaches his father with an open, pleasant, cheerful countenance, perfectly free from awkwardness or shiness, but with a graceful and respectful familiarity.

I do not know a more interesting sight than an English fire-side: and though the English are described to be a people unsusceptible of the finer feelings of the soul, and insensible to the charms of filial or parental affection, all who have had opportunities of domesticating in English families, must smile at the invidious falsehood.

This remark I understand to have originated in a Frenchman; and I cannot forbear laughing at the impudence of the charge, when I reflect, that, in France, no ties, not even that of marriage, are more lightly considered, than those of consanguinity.

In England, a magic circle rounds the fire-side, encompasses every bless-

ing; they love, but they seem to do so in their own way. An Englishman detests the very semblance of any thing sentimental; whereas the third word from a Frenchman's lips, is always "*his heart.*" Now, in this country, I have never heard the term mentioned, except by divines or anatomists. The English are satisfied with the consciousness of feeling love, friendship, gratitude, and every honourable emotion; they leave the parade to others. A Frenchman will shed tears over a misfortune; an Englishman labours to conceal the agitations of his mind, and will force a smile upon his cheek, when his inward emotions are those of excessive grief. The former vents his boisterous friendship in a long embrace; the latter shews his cordiality by giving his friend a heartier shake by the hand. Hence it may fairly be inferred, that although the mutual affections between parents,

and children, are not manifest to every casual observer; yet to such as have an opportunity to preserve their character, it is obvious, that this *apparent* coldness is the effect of constitutional prejudice, and has nothing to do with the real sensations by which they are actuated. There are moments, however, in all countries, when the heart opens involuntarily; and those are, perhaps, the most exquisite of our lives.

The familiar phrases *thee* and *thou*, are unknown in an English family; nor do they fondle or caress their children: while at home for the holidays, they have every proper liberty, but are not suffered to have exclusive opinions of their own till their education is completed. A clerk, therefore, in a counting-house, is more privileged than a student.

Wanton tricks, inseparable from youth, are chastised and instantly for-

given; but the least token of depravity is most severely punished.

Some parents, whose fixed residence is the country, at times take their children up to London, by way of treating them with a sight of the many fine things shewn in the metropolis. Such a journey is usually a remarkable epoch in the history of the family, and serves as an incident often in novels or plays, to produce very interesting scenes.

The girls live separately from the boys till they grow up. But in France, where the province of education vests wholly in the mother, the heir is brought up at his mother's toilet, and at the age of sixteen possesses a perfect knowledge of the sex: no weakness, no peculiarity of the female world, has escaped his observation. This intercourse gives an elegant polish to his exterior, and eminently qualifies him for intrigue: indeed he may be

called an accomplished man of the world while yet a boy; and all the follies, vanities, frivolities, sentimentalities, &c. that sum up the character of a gay Parisian lady, are as it were engrafted on the youth by these early habits.

There is, however, a very superior academy in Paris, called *l'Ecole Polytechnique*. How do the youths brought up there differ from those I have described! They certainly have not the easy deportment of the latter; could not present a fan with the same graceful negligence; but they derive infinite superiority from the polish of their understanding, the energy of their character, and the acuteness of their penetration.

The English have been censured for neglecting to polish their youths by an early female intercourse. If you would preserve the mind of a boy free

from corruption, avoid rather than court female tuition; it will save the girl too.

It cannot be denied that a young Englishman makes a *debut* very awkwardly before an assemblage of ladies: he looks down, is embarrassed, blushes at any gallant phrases addressed to him: but the English are such admirers of nature, that they think this shyness amiable, and look upon a coxcomb as an insufferable annoyance; and indeed the character is so foreign to them, that they appear truly ridiculous when aping the volatility and levity of French manners, unless they have travelled to attain those flippant accomplishments. A variety of these unnatural imitators may be seen in every caricature shop in London.

It is remarked that young English officers are particularly addicted to this weakness, the principal features of

which are, an heterogeneous mixture of French phrases, and certain fashionable cant expressions in English, unintelligible except to the parties.

Mrs. d'Albrey (formerly Miss Burney) gives masterly descriptions of these fops in some of her novels. Her works are the only literary productions I have seen in this country, which are calculated to inform the mind on the real state of society in England.

Having taken some pains to recapitulate the advantages of English education, I shall endeavour to point out its defects.

There are two descriptions of seminaries; one for general instruction, the other preparatory. But to me all schools appear merely preparatory to some future avocation. The evil however is in the number. In every petty country town you will see it written up in conspicuous characters, "YOUNG

GENTLEMEN CLASSICALLY EDUCATED."

"A BOARDING-SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES." The police takes no notice of these institutions, often the last resource of some disappointed vagabond, or illiterate blockhead; and people are suffered to expose the morals, as well as to establish the ignorance of their children, by confiding their education to these Charlatans in learning. Unfortunately these deceptions are not merely practised in the country, but extend their venom to the metropolis.

An uncertificated bankrupt, without character, friends, or expectations, takes a large house, and engages assistants; abundance of whom may be had at an hour's notice, who barter their *consummate* talents for a table and thirty pounds a year. The household thus established, a long advertisement is put into the papers, wherein the author deplores, that many unquali-

fied persons impose themselves on the public, to the great disappointment of parents, and the ruin of their children; that inspired with an ambition to rescue the rising generation from the influence of ignorance, and warmly solicited by the united wishes of his numerous and respectable friends, he is induced to offer to parents and guardians an enviable asylum for their little flock; where every attention will be paid to their persons and morals; and the following accomplishments and sciences taught by professors of the first eminence.

Here follow a long list of *et cæteras*: and the *modest* advertiser concludes by assuring the public, that having no view to private emolument, he is enabled to receive young gentlemen at the very moderate terms of thirty pounds a year.

It may appear strange that parents

should suffer themselves to be lured by the parade of an advertisement, and consign their children without some better proof, to the care of such advertisers. It can only be answered, that the English are the greatest of all dupes to appearances. There certainly are many private schools of real reputation, but the former are the prevailing class, and perhaps the most successful. Somehow or other, they do not contrive to give celebrity to these respectable schools; merit does not court the aid of ornament—these schools must be known, and that knowledge is confined; still it is a fact, that the best private schools are as far behind hand with the public schools, as the latter are with those of other countries.

Now follow seminaries to qualify youth for their particular professions: that of M. Garrard, at Chelsea, is a

most excellent institution for such as are intended for sea. Commercial academies are rare ; but military schools have lately been established, which promise the highest national advantage.

I have spoken of the public schools, but not described them. The most famous are, Westminster, Eton, Harrow on the Hill, Winchester, and the Charter-house ; but the wisdom taught by the monks in the age of barbarism and darkness, is the still existing basis of education practised at these schools. Mathematics, physics, history, modern languages, and all the later acquirements, give way to a useless collection of Latin and Greek shreds, transmitted to posterity by the ancients. Yet these seminaries are in high repute—and why? Because they have been the cradle in which the genius of the most celebrated characters in this

country has been fostered. This is a new incitement to appreciate the talents of those men, who, with a bold and daring flight, soared beyond the confined limits of ancient usage. But let me ask, what would they have become, had a proper and congenial soil nourished and matured their distinguished powers?

Oxford and Cambridge, the two celebrated universities of this country, consist of ranges of ill-contrived colleges. The student differs little from the school-boy, excepting, that, instead of being punished with a rod, he is punished by a longer task than usual. The former certainly has more liberty, but still he lives in the college under the care of a tutor; he must be present at appointed hours of instruction in the public hall, and regularly attend divine service; he reads the ancients, but the sciences are not within the limits

of college instruction. There are professors, certainly, who give public lectures on these subjects, but none of distinguished fame or literary reputation.

Adam Smith, on the Wealth of Nations, ascribes this glaring defect to the many lucrative benefices with which the Church of England abounds. They withdraw men of genius and talent from the scene of action; and those of reputation, whose interest does not so promote them, seldom take much trouble to impart the knowledge they possess; that labour devolves on the younger branch of the professors, who treat natural philosophy, belles-lettres, anatomy, &c. with more ceremony than enthusiasm. In a future chapter on "Arts and Sciences," this subject will be resumed.

Boarding-schools, however well adapted to boys, are as pernicious to

the system of female education. They may be compared with nunneries; but with this difference, in the latter seminaries, religious penances, and pious vows, have sometimes preserved the noviciate pure and uncorrupted; whereas, the former possess all the baneful traits of the latter, without any of their restricting qualities.

A widow, whose doubtful character has expelled her from the circle of her acquaintance, retires to a distant part of the kingdom, where she opens a school. Old maids, who have grievously borne the reputation of chastity, are her teachers; and the moral groupe is crowned by the addition of some run-away French-woman. This is a pretty hot-bed for miss in her teens.

I do not by any means, however, contend that there are no female seminaries kept by women of character; but I insist that public education for

girls, is radically erroneous: they are not, by nature, intended to grow up in mutual habits of intimacy with each other. A boy opens his heart among his school-fellows, but a girl learns cunning and dissimulation: among boys, brotherly love for each other is encouraged, and they are ennobled by the sentiment; but with girls, envy, hatred, and malice, are the darling propensities, too fondly cherished.

I once happened to be in a large company of ladies, when the conversation turned on French education: they were unanimous in declaring, that among all the school-mates they had been brought up with, not one could claim a bosom-friend: and it is the virtuous example of their homes alone, which corrects the evil tendency of licentious habits at school, heightened by the perusal of books—their too

familiar companions at a boarding-school.

At home they behold the deference paid to virtue ; they contemplate the happy establishment of their young friends just married ; they partake the enthusiastic joys of the youthful mother ; and they find all these enjoyments to be so many rays emanating from the bright sun of female virtue : the evil spirit is corrected by reflection ; and thus is the mind led on to the practice of those virtues which are so nobly rewarded. To this charm the British female character owes its superiority.

Some, indeed, whose minds are not so strong, and whose wayward hearts beat with unruly wishes, are awed into a negative reputation for virtue, by shuddering at the contempt and infamy which follow one false step, and

the miseries attendant on that error, which no future contrition can expiate. There are no schools open for the exclusive reception of nobility. At great schools, they do not ask the rank, but the fortune of the parties. I know a very worthy man, a shipbroker, who is said to be worth seventy thousand pounds; he has an only child, a charming young lady, who is educated among ladies of the first rank: the regular charge is one hundred and fifty guineas per annum, and extras amount to one hundred guineas more.

It only remains with me now to speak of a class who receive no education at all; I mean the MOB, whose savage behaviour is a disgrace to an enlightened nation. It is inconceivable that no means have been attempted to humanise these people. In this extensive empire, where thousands of bene-

volent institutions flourish, there are no public schools worth notice for the education of the lower classes of the people. Lately, Sunday institutions have been opened for the children of the poor; but this is too slender an attempt to correct rooted depravities: the rising generation, therefore, will partake all the licentious qualities of their predecessors; and this evil extends throughout the kingdom, uncorrected by a government, much of whose existence perhaps depends on its organization.

I have been assured by a friend well acquainted with the public schools, one of which he superintends, that the whole are influenced by political prejudice; and however strange it may seem in a country where the freedom of the mind ought to pierce through the cloud of prejudice, yet it is too

certain, that in such a country, erroneous opinions have their advocates; among the most glaring of which, is that which insists, “ *that the lower class of people can only be governed in the dark!*”

CHAP. VIII.

Comparative View of ancient and modern Politics—English Liberty; its Foundation—Public Spirit; its Origin and Influence—Mr. Pitt's famous Sedition Bill—Freedom of the Press; its fundamental Laws, Effects, and Increase—Newspapers; their different Classes; their Partialities; their Cabals—The Whigs and Tories; their Principles delineated—Election for Westminster—The three Candidates; Mr. Fox, Admiral Gardner, Mr. Graham, the Auctioneer—Patriotic Enthusiasm of the People in Favour of Mr. Fox—Election for the County of Middlesex—Coldbath-Fields Prison—Sir Francis Burdett—Mr. Mainwaring—The Contest—The triumphal Return of Sir Francis to London.

THE political character of a people is, among moderns, supposed to be the natural result of the constitution they live under. It has been asserted, that states uncharacterised by patriotism,

public spirit, or a love of freedom, must also be undistinguished by the refinements of humanity.

In the splendid annals of the Greeks and Romans, we find the *AMOR PATRIÆ*, (so general in those days,) was their only incentive to great and immortal deeds; and a particular race of people in China, are generally held up as an example of the intricate connection between the state and the people; inasmuch, that many able writers have attempted to prove, that a republican family, transplanted by accident or otherwise into an absolute government, would gradually degenerate, till, tainted by the prevalent corruption around them, they would eventually resemble the slavish multitude with which they were incorporated.

Rousseau, by bold and animated exertion, has given popularity to this

axiom; and it is now considered as the leading feature of distinction between the ancient and modern systems of politics.

Machiavel represented the constitution to be a mirror, which faithfully reflected the character of the people. Aristotle insisted that the state was the body, the citizens the limbs, and that the harmonious motion of the whole was produced by virtue. Plato maintained, that the well-regulated life of a wise man is the picture of a flourishing government, perfect in all its operations. And, indeed, all the ancients concur in the opinion, that every constitution is dependant on individual principles.

Nothing therefore can be more opposite than this contracted opinion. Machiavel, in his *Discorsi*, continues firm in his doctrine throughout: he considers no revolution lasting, except

that which is followed by a change of national character; nor any constitution founded, the spirit of which is in opposition to the prevalent sentiments of the people. Hence he deduces, that liberty can only blossom in a soil which is manured with the vital energies of pure republican manners.

If, on the contrary, the political character of a nation depends on its constitution, by what accident is it ever shaken? That government certainly will last to eternity, where the character of the people changes with it. Thus it would appear, that the ancients have evinced a clearer knowledge of human nature, than the moderns; at least in this particular instance.

These distinct views have long divided the political parties of the English; and an observer of their national character will find the result of his re-

searches vary according to the point whence he draws his observations.

In considering the political character of the English, and the history of their liberty, we shall discover that inestimable privilege not to have been modelled by, but as giving form and existence to, their constitution.

There is, however, another sublime and dignified impulse which animates their government; I mean the public spirit that pervades the nation at large. It is a property so interwoven with the existence of an Englishman, and appears under so many various and multiplied forms, that it cannot be reduced to the limits of a single idea. It is, however, distinguishable for an unbounded confidence in mutual exertion, and a firm reliance that all classes of society unite in a cheerful promotion of the public welfare.

In most other countries, this union of interest is unknown; envy in some, and malice in others, contend publicly and privately for the destruction of each other. Indeed, such is the want of connection in the component parts, that the political body may be compared with a polypus, where you cut and carve excrescences without injury to the system: but in England, public safety is a solid chain; while the links remain unbroken, its strength is unbounded; but the destruction of any one part, would prove fatal to the whole.

For instance, the downfall of the nobility, would necessarily involve all other classes in their ruin. The commercial interest would suffer, because there is scarcely a mercantile family of any consequence in England, which is not allied to nobility by consanguinity, affinity, or otherwise.

The banker is the repository where the proceeds of landed property are vested; this loan of ready money gives him distinction and credit; and the nobility being the principal landholders of the kingdom, that body must necessarily sink with them.

The retailer would fall with the wholesale dealer: the manufacturer would want the support of the opulent, without which he must cease to prosper; and the whole flourishing trade of the kingdom would dwindle into insignificance.

Nor would agriculture escape the general ruin. Instead of those extensive farms, to which England owes much of her prosperity, the landed property would be divided into small hereditary estates. The farmer then would become a labourer, the labourer a beggar.

But the shock would be still more

dreadful and rapid, if the failure commence with the merchant or wholesale dealer. Such an event would totally annihilate public credit. All classes would be so impoverished, the retail trade would be extinguished, and the manufacturers would find no sale for their goods. This national calamity would likewise dissolve those incomparable institutions which support upwards of a million of poor people, by the voluntary contributions of the affluent.

This sort of wandering beggars would join the manufacturers; the whole would be reinforced by those unruly mobs which are easily collected in all large towns in England; and the most horrid and disastrous anarchy would ensue.

Misery would stalk through the streets of the metropolis in open day, under every hideous and appalling

shape; and England would bid an eternal adieu to her former greatness.

This picture has been held up by the inveterate foe of Europe to his people, to allure them to his standard; and he tells them, with too much truth, that, "*in case he is not foiled by an unforeseen disaster, England shall sustain an injury at his hands, not to be repaired in twenty centuries*.*"

Even the failure of the lower orders, would affect the higher: wholesale trade could not exist without retail: and, in that case, the mechanic would also be unemployed.

Thus the interest of one branch of the state is the interest of the whole; and the public spirit which connects this chain, is not the result of any casual prejudice, but flowing from the characteristic principles of a nation,

* This from the *Moniteur*.

early ingrafted on the mind by education. It is true, this spirit does not reign with equal splendour throughout the kingdom: in the statesman it is connected with the most exalted ideas, with the mechanic it is absorbed in self-interest; still the effect is equally beneficial.

The history of England affords examples of the decline of public spirit at certain intervals; particularly during the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell: but it will be remembered, that in those days the interests of the kingdom were made subservient to religious fanaticism and church-politics*. This national bulwark was, however, revived in the reign of William of Orange; since when it has taken deeper root and extent than ever.

The excellencies of the British con-

* Vide pamphlets published in those days, and collected in the Harleian Miscellany, vol. 8.

stitution have been the subject of brilliant panegyric with the great Montesquieu. It is not to be moved by mechanical powers, but by a free exercise of moral and intellectual faculties. The force of public opinion predominates, and governs England, while a single vestige of it cannot be traced in most other countries.

Who does not remember those extraordinary instances of public opinion, when ministers, supported by Parliament, were unable to realize their views, or maintain their plans, in opposition to the voice of the people? And, on the other hand, when Parliament unsuccessfully opposed a minister supported by public favour?

Lord North could not maintain his situation at the helm, although surrounded by a numerous court-party; and Mr. Pitt, on assuming his place in the cabinet, defied the united ef-

forts and intrigues of a powerful coalition in both houses, and stood his ground on the basis of public opinion.

On the premature dissolution of Parliament, the king justified the extraordinary measure, by signifying it to have been the voice of the people; and in all political differences, both houses of Parliament defend themselves on this unanswerable plea.

When the Grenville party attacked the last peace with France, which they reprobated as derogatory to the dignity of the crown and the honour of the nation, the ministry silenced their virulent reproaches by stating, that the voice of the people was for peace; and that it became necessary to yield to them.

Public opinion, however, is by no means a corresponding connection of political sentiments or principles,

but consists in the united opinions of all classes, on some important public occasion, tending to produce one general effect, although arising from various causes.

When Mr. Pitt, during the king's illness, resisted the unconditional regency of the Prince, the voice of the public was decidedly in favour of the minister, who carried his point in defiance of a powerful Opposition, strenuous in asserting the rights of the heir apparent, an opposition who left no intrigue or artifice unemployed, to foil the ambitious views of their opponent. But it must not be hence inferred, that the people were guided by a general attachment to Mr. Pitt's political principles: on the contrary, many who disapproved his system, then gave their voice from pure attachment to their royal master, and in compassion to his infirmities; and on all public

occasions, where an appeal is made to the judgment of the nation, the motives are different, although the result may, on the whole, be uniform.

Foreigners frequently mistake this point; they confound the popularity of a minister with his influence on the people: but a minister may be without popularity, and still, by a certain address, win over the people to approve his conduct.

No minister ever disregarded the love of the people so palpably as William Pitt; and yet who was ever more distinguished by the voice of the people? This truth is strikingly attested by the most critical act of his administration, when he brought into Parliament "*a Bill against seditious Meetings,*" which was to pass into a temporary law of three years' duration.

This bill appeared calculated to menace English liberty; and the Oppo-

sition anticipated a victory over the falling minister. Never was any parliamentary measure so loudly condemned, or so violently opposed: false rumours were circulated to mislead the credulous, and every artifice, justifiable and unjustifiable, set in motion to arouse the public indignation*. The Opposition, it would appear, em-

* The history of two acts, entitled, 1st, "*An Act for the safety and preservation of his Majesty's person and government against treasonable practices and attempts:*" 2dly, "*An Act for the more effectually preventing seditious meetings and assemblies;*" including the proceedings of the British Parliament on the occasion, was published in an 8vo volume, London, 1796. The author of this collection is by no means impartial: his principal sources of information appear to have been the opposition papers; and the most important passages against this party, he has most carefully thrown into an appendix; hoping, no doubt, the reader, after perusing 800 pages of debate, may pass over the latter part. The work, however, is very important, being the only one by which the political sentiments of the nation, at that moment, are to be ascertained.

ployed agents in the different counties to excite a clamour against the ministerial measures of the day; and in order to induce the inhabitants of Newcastle to petition Parliament against the bill, they caused hand-bills to be posted all over the town, announcing that Middlesex and Westminster had presented similar petitions: the friends of Opposition also endeavoured to persuade the mechanics in London, by means of printed hand-bills, that the minister intended to withdraw from their corporations the right of meeting.

Mr. Erskine, on this occasion, presented a petition to Parliament in the name of the bankers and merchants of London; but a solemn protest was made against the act by the parties. Others, presented to Parliament by members of the Opposition, eventually turned out to have been filled up with

fictitious signatures ; and among those who really had signed, many were found to be of the very lowest class of society ; and others, children ten or twelve years of age. The rabble of manufacturing towns, Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield, &c. were made tools to the Opposition ; and other mobs were harangued in the open streets of London, by the late duke of Bedford, the earl of Lauderdale, Messrs. Fox, Sheridan, Grey, and others of that party. With all this exertion, however, the Opposition were only able to procure 131,484 signatures to sixty-two petitions.

In this situation of affairs, many persons protested against the petitions which had been thus unfairly obtained ; and county-meetings took place to inquire into these abuses : the result of which was, that, although the measure in dispute was unpopular, the

voice of the people admitted its necessity. The corporations and inhabitants of two hundred and thirty-six different borough towns and cities, including all the principal places of England and Scotland, yielded their public assent to an object rendered necessary by the peculiar circumstances of the times*.

Such a triumph is unparalleled in the achievements of British ministers. The act was desperate in the extreme, and could not fail to arouse every sentiment of apprehension in the multitude; but notwithstanding its unpopularity, as well as the ingenious incentives employed to augment it, Mr. Pitt rose superior to all obstacles, and, supported by the voice of the people, baffled all the united efforts of inventive calumny.

* This fact will appear from a careful perusal of the appendix and register of the work just mentioned.

A member of Parliament, from the moment of his election, throws off all dependence on his constituents; but if he aims at leading a party, or opposing a minister, it can only be effected by his superior endowments, all of which must be directed to influence the public mind in his behalf.

There have been instances of members declining to comply with the wishes of their constituents. The patriotic Lord Chatham, while member for Bath, absolutely refused to present a petition from that city to Parliament. Still, with all this apparent independence, they must be governed by public opinion, whose influence unites or separates political bodies at will, and produces those revolutions in the cabinet, which form the different epochs of the political history of England: it is most manifest in the liberty of the press.

This privilege is no where so unlimited as in England; there it is not fettered by any particular law; so that the people hold possession of this invaluable palladium by the right of prescription.

The life, character, and domestic concerns of a private individual are not within the freedom of the press; those, therefore, who make them the subject of public attack or discussion, are liable to prosecution; and on these occasions the jury inflicts most rigorous penalties.

Public characters, public bodies, or objects comprehending the national welfare, are all liable to be called before the tribunal of the public. These comprehend ministers of state, their secretaries, persons holding public offices, chiefs of corporations, members of parliament, authors, teachers in public schools, actors, &c. &c. The life, ac-

tions, character, nay even the domestic concerns of any of these few personages, may be publicly canvassed: but let the accuser beware how he exceeds the boundary of truth; such a transgression being cognizable by law. Mr. Pitt has been most severely criticised by his opponents; but he never, except in one instance, offered any justification of himself. The fact to which I allude is this—the editor of a newspaper accused him of having a clandestine understanding with certain gamblers in the funds. The charge was so heinous that he submitted it to the consideration of a jury, and the editor was found guilty. But however severely transgressions of this nature are punished, still every one enjoys the privilege of drawing whatever inference he pleases from an exposition of facts, and on those grounds to satirise without mercy the object of his cri-

ticism : and this is irremediable, though it is evident that error or conjecture may be as fatal as wilful misrepresentation.

The liberty of the press is the most efficacious remedy against calumny ; for while it permits the attack it furnishes weapons to parry every blow. What, let me ask, would be the consequence of a fact, like the following, in a country where no liberty of the press existed?

The late celebrated Mr. Burke, in a spirited pamphlet, accused the former friend of his bosom, Charles Fox, of high treason ; yet this remarkable circumstance attracted no more public attention than any other effusion of party spirit would have done. The report was as open as the accusation.

In other countries plausible sophistry or well-directed declamation may turn the heads of a weak auditory ; but in

England the finest periods, the most brilliant tropes, cannot cheat an unlettered plebeian out of the exercise of his own judgment, or lull him into a state of supineness at any moment of critical importance. Hence the astonishment of foreigners at witnessing the correctness and perspicuity with which individuals of the lowest class in England judge of the relative situation of things, and point out the strong and weak sides of their most eminent political leaders.

The liberty of the press is universally allowed to be the chief support of English liberty. It secures the people from the attempts of inordinate ambition, and protects the statesman from the insidious attack of an ambushed enemy.

Every cause in which a statesman engages becomes the cause of the public. From the first moment of his ap-

pearance on the theatre of the world, they watch his every step, make notes of all his actions, public or private, and delineate with accuracy the various features of his character; with these documents they become his unprejudiced and uncorrupted judges; and this is the greatest prerogative a statesman can enjoy.

During my residence in Dublin, I was once present when the liberty of the press became the topic of conversation. A lady, sister to a celebrated British statesman, made the following beautiful remark: "The liberty of the press is the sunshine in which a public character blazons and expands. Warmth and light will, no doubt, attract insects; but who would renounce a beautiful flower because it was so infected?"

Even the malecontents, who are perpetually declaiming against the infringement of government on the

rights of the people, must acknowledge that they have derived additional powers, during the last fifty years, from the freedom of the press. Works have issued from the Opposition, bearing such traits of boldness as seem to exceed the legal limits of established prerogative. Of this fact, the Letters of Junius may serve as an incontrovertible proof: and what other government in the world would have suffered the freedom with which Dr. Walcot* has indulged the humour of his Muse? It is the study of the editors of Opposition papers, to give interest to their writings, by the loftiness of their tone, and the virulence of their attacks on government; and this truth will be evident to any who may choose to compare the moderation of old newspapers with the violence of those of the present day.

* Better known by the name of Peter Pindar.

There are two classes of newspapers, the ministerial and anti-ministerial; the latter are by far the more numerous; are distinguished by superior taste and elegance of composition, and frequently draw their sources of information from some of the most distinguished among the oppositionists. The former are the advocates of government, and therefore, improperly, considered by foreigners to be in the pay of government; whereas the London Gazette is the only paper supported by government. It is a journal of no political tendency whatever, and cannot be classed among the ministerial papers, as it takes no notice of party feuds or contests: it may be compared with the German Advertiser. The editors of ministerial papers are voluntary partisans. The public does not expect impartiality from an editor, but requires that he should

be uncorrupted; and the least doubt upon the latter point, is sufficient to invalidate the credit of a paper altogether.

All who are acquainted with the situation of an English minister, will perceive that he dare not draw the editor of a paper into his interest by bribery. It is a well-known fact, that the ministerial writers indiscriminately applaud the measures of government; how then could a minister hire his own encomiast? That would be a meanness an Englishman could never forgive; besides, these editors are not a set of hungry scribblers, ready to barter their reputation for a mess of porridge, but mostly men of considerable fortune. And this cannot be doubted, when it is known, that the establishment of a daily paper requires a capital of 18,000*l*. The annual receipts of the Morning Herald, as I have been as-

sured, exceed 8,000*l.* and the clear profits of the *Star*, not less than 6,000*l.*

It sometimes happens that one paper is the joint property of fifty persons, who have subscribed equally to the original fund, and draw equal shares from the emoluments. They employ some well-known author for their editor; and as the fate of the paper, in a great measure, depends on the editor, they are particularly scrupulous in their choice, and extremely watchful of his motions.

This editor is under the controul of the public, the proprietors, his political opponents, and the editors of the different papers, who, by virtue of their respective offices, seek every opportunity to discover his weak side, and condemn his conduct. These gentlemen are at perpetual warfare; they employ, in the true style of scribbling, every trick imaginable; and their mutual jea-

lousy frequently produces scenes no less ludicrous than extraordinary.

While I was in London, the editors of two of the newspapers had for some time carried on a smart paper-war; each disputed the unrivalled meed of public applause: at length one of them, I do not recollect which, by a *coup de maitre* of the most malicious tendency, silenced his opponent. He instructed his agent at Paris, to procure the fabrication of a French paper in the exact form of the *Publiciste*, and to fill it from his own brain, with *important* intelligence respecting the peace of Amiens. It was then sent by express to his rival in London, so that it arrived some hours sooner than the real Paris papers.

The unconscious editor was overjoyed at this piece of good fortune: for nothing affords more triumph to the conductor of a London paper, than the

anticipation of any important article of intelligence. He assumed vast consequence, and communicated this surprising news with an air of much self-complacency. No one suspected the truth; and the intelligence being of a stock-jobbing tendency, many speculations were consequently made in the city.—When lo! the genuine papers arrived.

It is impossible to describe the mingled sensations of amazement, chagrin, confusion, disappointment, which this event produced in the mercantile world. In vain the poor editor produced his documents, and pleaded his having been imposed upon. But such an apology was by no means satisfactory; his credulity was unpardonable; in the mean time his adversary laughed at him, and the proprietors lost perhaps one half of their readers.

The partiality of editors is not merely

confined to the politics they espouse, but is equally glaring in their parliamentary reports. The Opposition papers mutilate the speeches of the minister; and, *vice versa*: it is therefore necessary to read the papers of both parties, to form a just conception of the debates.

It is remarkable that ~~this~~ attachment to party is confined to the internal politics of the kingdom; and when the state of Europe becomes the question, they adopt invariably the opinion of the nation at large. So that when one general sentiment pervades the kingdom, the utmost harmony is visible among the heroes of the quill; which, however, vanishes the moment the public opinion is divided on a national question.

Just before the present war broke out, all parties in the house of commons expatiated on the merits of the

peace, while the papers of the day loudly proclaimed the dangers which menaced the country from the hostile operations of the man with whom a delusive bond of amity had been so recently tied. The leaders of both parties in the house, expressed their decided disapprobation of this language, but without effect. The editors persisted to announce the necessity of a new war, although the heralds had scarcely pronounced the ratification of peace; and these were, certainly, the sentiments of the people.

There are, in England, three political parties: the Tories, the Old Whigs, the New Whigs; but, in parliament there would appear to be only two, the Ministry and Opposition; so that it is difficult to form an opinion of the exact political cast of individuals, from their parliamentary tenets.

The Tories are staunch patriots, and

firmly maintain that liberty unimpaired, on which the nation founds its greatness. They detest all party contention, and profess to be the advocates of tranquillity*. It is their opinion, that the liberty of the subject is sufficiently secured by the liberty of the press, and by juries; and that an extension of the king's power would be the safest counterpoise to the gigantic strides of party. I have often heard Tories express their conviction, that England would rise in prosperity in proportion as unanimity pervaded her.

* It may not be improper here to exemplify this by a quotation from the Confessions of a celebrated Tory. *Vide Hume's Essays, part i. page 164.* "The Tories, as men, were enemies to oppression, and as Englishmen, enemies to arbitrary power. Their zeal for liberty was, perhaps, less fervent than that of their antagonists, but was sufficient to make them forget all their general principles. A Tory may be defined in few words: to be a lover of monarchy, though without renouncing liberty, and a partizan of the family of Stuart." The latter part of the definition is at present obsolete.

internal politics. Their language to Opposition is usually as follows:

“ You study, on all occasions, to obstruct the measures of government; you take pride in calumniating the minister, no matter who, and studiously depreciate his exertions, even when they are most entitled to your praise: is it then extraordinary that he should resort to cabals, that he may foil you at your own weapons? You affirm, that England has lost all its reputation in foreign courts; why? because you incessantly proclaim to the world, that the country is on the brink of ruin, at the very moment too when her prosperity and resources are in full vigour. Can the state fail to appear feeble, when you invidiously harass the executive power? You declare liberty to be an invaluable blessing; why then not enjoy it in the bosom of tranquillity? You dwell on the dangers which

menace the country, without reflecting that internal faction is more to be dreaded than an host of foreign foes; and that it disseminates evils of the most dangerous tendency and horrible aspect."

Nothing can be more just than this observation: party contests must, invariably, weaken the safety of a state; they may be said to resemble the convulsions of persons in a fever, which gradually consume the constitution, till at length a violent paroxysm extinguishes the last spark of existence.

Such are the leading features of a Tory in parliament. Their numbers are now comparatively small; formerly, indeed, their party had considerably increased, and the nation seemed disposed to support their cause. Mr. Hume * himself seemed inclined to

* Essays, part i. page 40.

think, that the balance of power was in favour of the king. That position of affairs, however, was, of short duration.

The Whigs have, during the present reign, so increased in number, strength, and consequence, that they are undeniably the more powerful party. It would be impossible to withstand their influence were they united; but they are divided in themselves, the Old Whigs, and the New Whigs; still they are twin-brothers, reared up from the same cradle. M. Rapin*, a century ago, described the different descriptions of Whigs.

While no party contest had ever broken out between the Whigs, their contrasted and irreconcilable principles were not fully ascertained; but during the French revolution, the de-

* In his *Dissertation sur les Whigs et les Tories*.

mocracy of France may be exhibited as a faithful picture of the New Whigs; whereas the Old Whig system was shaken to the foundation.

The two parties now commenced open hostilities, both in and out of parliament. The celebrated Mr. Burke, with many of the Old Whigs, separated from Opposition on the occasion. He next published his work on the French Revolution, and soon after his Appeal from the New to the Old Whigs*, in which he laboured to prove the affinity between his principles and those of the most distinguished Whigs in former ages; and so complete was his success, that, from that hour, the parties have been distinguished as OLD and NEW Whigs.

The political principles of the Old Whigs are exactly correspondent with

* Burke's Works, vol. iii. page 377.

those of the ancient politicians. Like them, they consider every constitution dependant on the prevailing character of the people; and as civil liberty, and the freedom of the press, have been considered most essential to its welfare, those objects are most zealously defended by them.

The Old Whigs differ essentially from the Tories, as to the measures best calculated to ensure the rights of the people. They contend that party contests are an incentive to public spirit, and that liberty must maintain its privileges by constantly asserting them; otherwise, like a neglected magnet, its powers will moulder into decay. Hence the absolute necessity of an opposition, and its beneficial effects are numberless. It deters inordinate ambition from grasping at improper power; it guards the constitution from innovations, and averts the danger which

threatens its foundation. But Opposition disdains to employ any other weapons in this Herculean labour, than the laws and the liberty of the press; they oppose argument with argument.

The French Revolution had no sooner excited a wish in the New Whigs to subvert the old system, and equalize the orders of society, than Edmund Burke, a veteran in the cause of liberty, with infinite acuteness, as well as depth of perception, prognosticated the horrible events which would stain the progress of this new-born constitution. The horrid picture drawn by that able artist, during the first year of the French Revolution, has been amply realized by the history of the last fourteen years. In defending the British constitution, he undertook to justify, in all its members, the political body of the nation. He combated religious and political prejudices, and


eventually succeeded. At this crisis most of the Old Whigs withdrew from the Opposition, and gave their support to government: and to this *one* man is England indebted for its escape from all those horrors which ravaged France. This completely developed the principles of the contending parties; the Old Whigs have thereby been considerably reinforced, and the New Whigs lost the confidence of the people. But the latter took a dreadful revenge on Burke, whose latter days they embittered by calumnies of the most degrading nature.

The party at present denominated New Whigs, is extremely weak, and they know it; they therefore endeavour, by vehemence, to effect that which they want power to produce. They loudly tell the people that they are the most wretched set of beings in the creation, and their boasted country the most ab-

ject. They on all occasions express with inconceivable rancour, their abhorrence of the actual state of affairs in England.

It must appear most singular to a stranger who finds England surpass all other European nations in prosperity, who contemplates its unrivalled freedom, its public credit, its patriotism, when he hears this enviable country described by the leaders of a party as the abode of degeneracy, misery, and slavery: but the truth is, in a country where every man may deliver his opinions with whatever colouring he pleases, words, in the heat of contest, escape the speaker; his energies lead him beyond his meaning, and he errs rather in sound than sentiment. It cannot be denied that the party of New Whigs contains many illustrious characters, who act from the purest motives of patriotic zeal.

An entire reform is considered by this party, as the only expedient by which the kingdom can be saved: they attribute the defects of the constitution to these causes—First, to the immoderate power vested in the king; secondly, to the improper long duration of parliament; thirdly, to the influence of the crown at county elections.

They contend, that the king should not have the power to increase at will the number of the Upper House, and thereby strengthen an influence already too unlimited; that one parliament ought not to exist for more than three years; that ministers should be checked in the application of public monies to buy votes at an election; and that the right of sending members to parliament ought to be transferred from such boroughs as are now nearly extinct, to places of greater consequence requiring that privilege. 

Many of the most illustrious of the Opposition members represent insignificant boroughs, while the great manufacturing towns of Birmingham and Manchester send no members to parliament.

Party struggles always continue; but a general election is the signal for an open war, in which all the electors of the kingdom eagerly engage. At such a period, nothing is talked of but the defeats and triumphs of the day.

I was an eye-witness, and can therefore speak confidently, of the various remarkable scenes that passed during the elections of the Hon. Charles James Fox and Sir Francis Burdett.

At the election for Westminster, the candidates were, Mr. Fox, Admiral Gardner, and one Mr. Graham, an auctioneer: the tumult on this occasion beggars all description.

The Admiral presented himself on

the hustings, with an intention to address the electors; but such was the prevalence of hissing and groaning, that his speech was drowned in the universal uproar. The gallant veteran endured this treatment with amazing composure, and good-naturedly smiled at the new enemy he had to contend with. One day, however, a band of honest tars forcibly made their way up to the hustings, and cheered their commander in the true spirit of British seamen.

Mr. Graham for awhile appeared to dispute the public applause with Mr. Fox, but he was soon discomfited; and the illustrious patriot, who lives in the hearts of the nation, rose to the zenith of popular distinction.

Mr. Graham commenced the contest by declaring, that he had no intention to oppose so great a statesman as Mr. Fox, but that he stood forward

to resist the power of the minister. This speech was intended to produce a coalition of interest with the popular candidate; but Mr. Fox spurned at the attempt, and studiously avoided the most distant sort of communication with the auctioneer.

During the first days of this contest, Mr. Fox said little, and that little was delivered in a serious manner: but how could it have been otherwise? A man who for upwards of thirty years, had rendered the most eminent services to his country, now saw himself not only opposed, but thwarted in the only object of his ambition, by a man without pretensions. The spectators at length saw and sympathized in the wounded feelings of their favourite candidate. The air now resounded with his name; and the most unqualified indignation was shewn towards Mr. Graham.

On this occasion I heard such bursts of enthusiastic admiration uttered by all around me, that I retired impressed with sentiments of veneration for the merits of the statesman, and the gratitude of the people. A little boy standing at my elbow, asked his father which was Mr. Fox.—“The fat gentleman,” he replied, “in a blue coat and yellow waistcoat, standing in front of the hustings: take an accurate view of him, my boy; and let his character be indelibly stamped on your mind! He has rendered his country great services.” A bye-stander, who overheard the conversation, exclaimed, “That’s right! tell your son who is the real friend of Old England; and may he emulate so great an example!” I was one morning close to Mr. Fox, as he was crossing from the market to the piazzas, when an old apple-woman said to her neighbour—“*Has’nt Char-*

ley got a pretty round face? God bless his old fat belly."

Similar effusions of humour and naïveté, echoed from every corner of the crowd.

The election of Sir Francis Burdett was still more remarkable than that of Mr. Fox. Sir Francis is a young man, and an enthusiastic member of the New Whig party; and having obtained a seat in Parliament, he avowed himself a strenuous member of Opposition.

The NEW PRISON in the Coldbath-Fields had for some time been a subject of general complaint; and Sir Francis undertook to remedy the evils complained of: but his ardour was greater than his success. The governor of the prison was examined at the bar of the Commons, and a deputation of the house was appointed to investigate the abuses complained of. The result of these inquiries, however, by no means

satisfied the zealous baronet : he moved for the grand jury of Middlesex to take legal cognizance of the several charges that might be preferred by the prisoners, and to act accordingly.

This jury reported the internal government of the prison, to excel that of any other they had visited, considering it as a place of confinement for convicted criminals : but they censured the practice of subjecting suspected persons to the same laws with convicts, and excluding them from all communication with their friends and relations.

Sir Francis, by no means satisfied, persevered in his object, and was particularly opposed in his career by Mr. Mainwaring, one of the members for Middlesex ; on which account Sir Francis determined to dispute the next

election with him, for the first county in England.

Although Mr. Mainwaring possessed considerable interest in the county, which he had represented for twenty years, various circumstances conspired to ensure the election of Sir Francis. The friends of Mr. Mainwaring opened a subscription to support him in the contest ; but it was very inadequate to the immense resources of the baronet.

This election is said to have cost Sir Francis 40,000*l.* his favours alone were charged at 15,000*l.* To give eclat to the cause of Sir Francis, many leading members of the Opposition, and other eminent characters, conducted him to the hustings, amid the thundering applause of the immense crowds which lined the road from London to Brentford.

On the last day, at an early hour, Mr. Mainwaring withdrew his preten-

sions. In the evening the successful candidate made his triumphal entry into London ; and I was assured by a gentleman who had been present at the former triumph of Mr. Wilkes, that the latter was not to be compared with the present, in splendour and popularity. The number of persons present were estimated at 500,000 ; possibly not more than 300,000. The mob carried green boughs in token of victory ; and every carriage was decorated with the ribands of Sir Francis. Uninterrupted acclamations announced the approaching CONQUEROR ; and when he appeared, the people were convulsed, as it were, in testifying the eagerness of their joy ; and the general sentiment of approbation passed, like an electric shock, from one to another. Nor was this the mere triumph of a mob ; all who were present (many

of the highest rank) joined in the universal acclamations of applause.

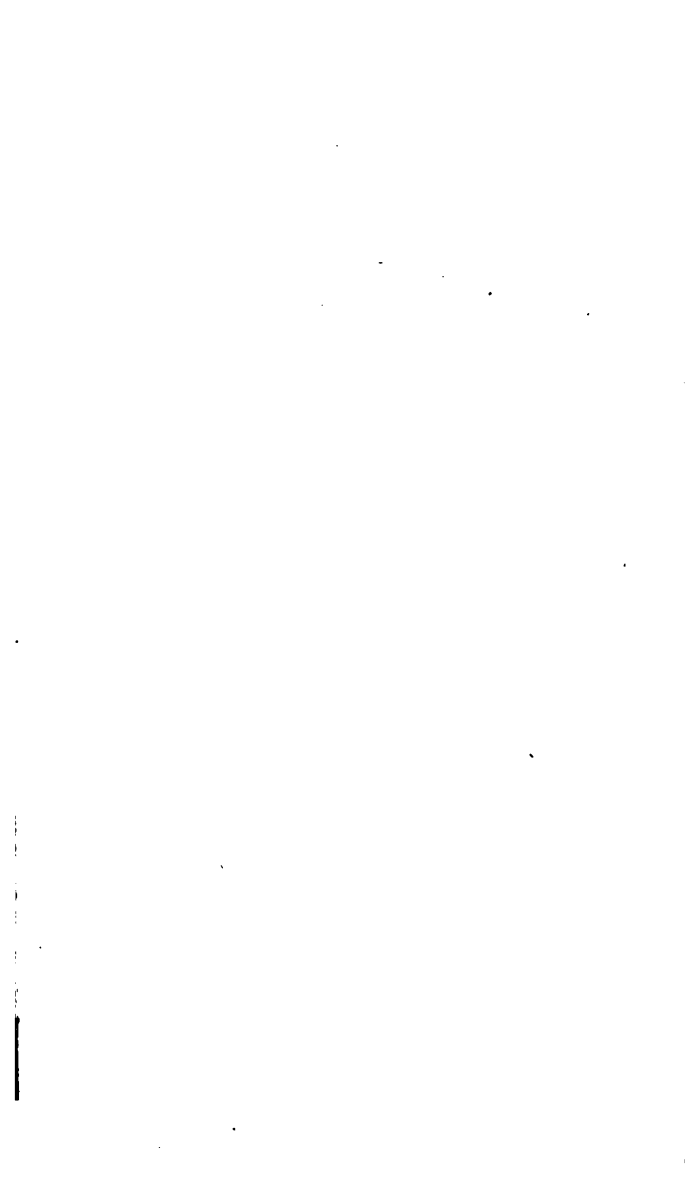
The English are accustomed, mechanically, to join in public testimonies of joy ; it is a sort of national sympathy which affects the uninterested party with the mania of those interested ; and certainly, when you see a thousand persons assemble to wave their hats on a public occasion, in London, you may safely lay two to one, that an hundred thousand are ready to follow their example.

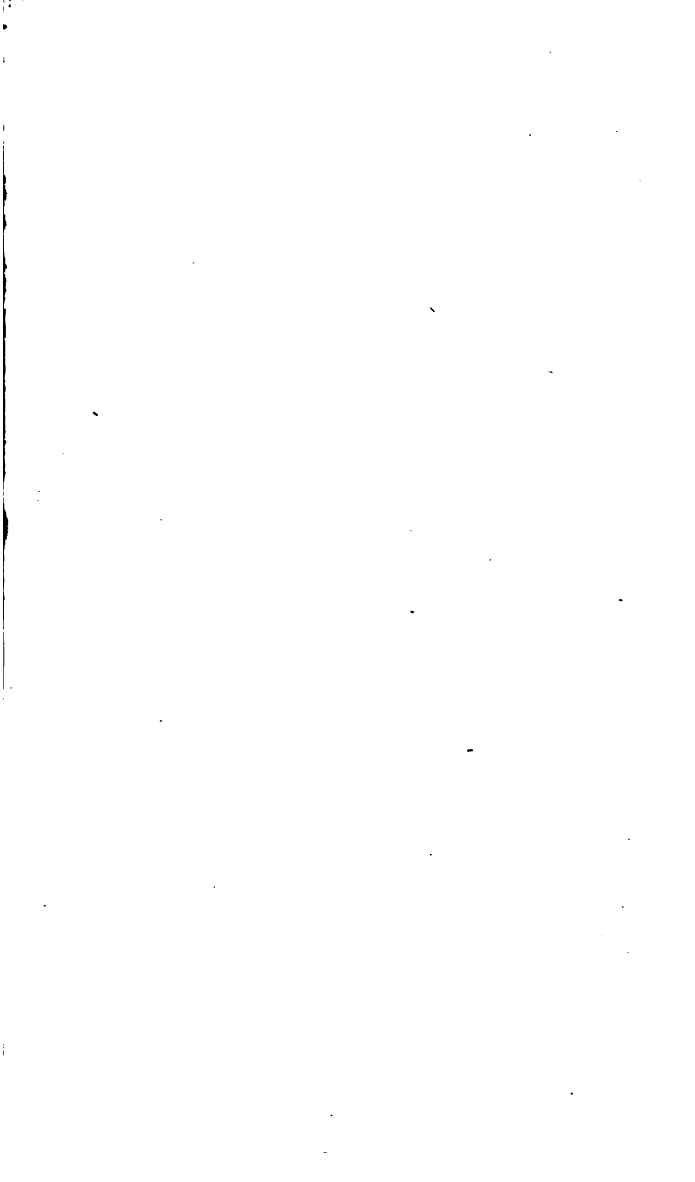
Thus terminated this remarkable election, which, in its origin, progress, and conclusion, characterises the whole electioneering spirit of England.

END OF VOLUME THE FIRST.













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